LIFESTYLE / C1

2bU! celebrates the fun fan
life with starstruck moments, real life encounters with idols

WORLD / A28

American woman
1st to run Boston marathon in space

ACROSS / A19

US offers $10K for info on missing Peace Corps volunteer Julia Campbell

Supreme Court upholds Drilon's LP leadership

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE SUPREME COURT ruled Friday (yesterday) in an 8-to-5 resolution Sen. Franklin Drilon's leadership of the Liberal Party (LP), with Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura dissenting out of the debate.

Nachura, a former solicitor general and an LP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

Wednesday, April 18, 2007 | 64 | 7 sections | Vol. 23 | No. 129 | P18

Champ flies first class, another in economy

By Tonx Quintanilla

THEY BOTH TOOK OFF, PARRIED Senior, and endured injuries on a night for Filipino flyweights as a boxing heyhbloodsin entertainers from home.

But as their trip back to celebrate the double victory, what separated the Filipino boxing champions were several rows of seats that obviously have highlighted the contrasting treatment accorded an established

SHARON 16 A

Metro turns into 'Manny-la,' GMA calls him shining light

By Christian Esguerra, Michael Lim, Allison W. Lopez and Tina Santos

IMAGINE WHAT A SHOOTOUT CAN do.

Showing that he could have the best of both worlds, the people's champ returned home to a triumphal welcome yesterday and proudly claimed some of those rules had entrenched him for many legislators were non-existent.

"Nagbabalikwas na nga ako e. (They have turned around.)," Manny Pacquiao told reporters at Malacañang Palace, where some President Macapagal-Arroyo basked in his glory, presenting him with a special 10" x 10" cake topped with a replica of a boxing glove.

From the Palace, Pacquiao rode in a six-hour motorcade through Manila, engulfed by the cheering of thousands of residents—their excitement matched only by the avidity of some Manila politicians to stand beside him, hoping the publicity would boost their electoral chances.

But only did Pacquiao's fan-laced the win out of Montano Arego Jedo in their fight in San Antonio, Texas, last week end. They may have also swayed some people into supporting his bid to challenge opposition Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez, Leyte's lone congressional seat of the United Nations City-South Cotabato dynasty—based, at least, on some statements from Torres-Gomez's.

"Manny has given everything to us,"

HERO 16 A

THE FILIPINO IDOL is home to a blockbuster welcome from his grateful and proud countrymen after defeating the undefeated Mexican punch. Solis in the eighth round of their title fight in San Antonio, Texas, on Sunday.

33 die in US bloodbath

S. Korean student behind worst campus rampage in American history

THE MOURNING GOES ON AND ON at the War Memorial Chapel on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, Virginia, where students congregate for a vigil for the 32 victims of a cold-blooded gunman who killed them while they were attending classes before turning the gun on himself on Monday morning.

BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA—THE gunshots were so slow and steady that some students thought they came from a nearby construction site, until they saw the police officers with rifles poised at Norris Hall, the engineering building at Virginia Tech.

Bang. Bang. Bang.

They went on and on, for what seemed like 10 or 15 minutes, an eternity-ish bystander.

Bang. Bang. On the third floor of Norris Hall, Emily L. Hendricks, a professor, looked out the window of his office and saw students crowding a story from the building.

Bang. Bang. Bang.

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WEATHER FORECAST

Mike A out of ICU today

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE FAST RECOVERY OF President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, continues to amaze his doctors who said he would be out of the intensive care unit today.

Dr. Reginald Castillo, the heart surgeon who performed the very risky 18-hour open heart surgery, said Arroyo would be moved to a suite at the hospital's rehabilitation unit, which he said was another indication of his faster-than-expected recovery.

"He no longer needs intensive care management so he will be transferred to a step-down unit," Castillo said.

Arroyo will not be taken to the presidential suite where the President has been staying and holding office since her husband's confinement, because he needs to be in a suite equipped with monitors to enable his doctors to keep tab of his recovery.

Just a week after the surgery, Arroyo was able to get out of bed and sit on a chair yesterday, to the surprise of his doctors, said Castillo.

"He's doing very well, better than we expected. In fact I told you earlier that he would recover in 10 to 14 days but now it's only a week. He can even go home next sunday," the doctor said.

But he said he would prefer for his patient to stay on in the hospital until he is physically strong.

Castillo said the fact that Mike Arroyo was also able to produce urine in four days proves how fast he has recovered from the kidney failure which resulted from the surgery. He is also no longer on dialysis.

He said there were no problems with Arroyo's coronary despite the few minutes that the blood supply to his brain was cut to facilitate the aneurysmectomy and triple bypass performed last Tuesday.

Routine procedure

Dr. Julio Gapuz Lorenzana, the main attending physician, doubted Castillo's supervisor is having been able to cut the length of time that blood supply to the brain needed to be stopped during the operation. She said Castillo found a small blood vessel that continued to supply blood to the brain while blood circulation in the rest of the body was stopped for 45 minutes during the operation.

Castillo said the technique was already a routine procedure that he used for his heart patients.

The doctor said Arroyo was not very unknown during the first few days after the surgery as was to be expected in open heart surgeries of that kind. He said he has been resting, Arroyo's monitors and brain functions every day since the operation.

"His memory is very sharp. He's conscious of the time, place and sometime, meaning his memory is OK," Castillo said.

He said Arroyo knows where he is, is aware of the date, and even reads the cards made for him by his grandchildren which are plastered on the walls of his hospital room.

He said he was also able to recognize everyone in the many family pictures pasted in the wall near his bed.

Castillo said he was able to speak to Arroyo for the first time last Monday, when he was taken off the respirator. Since then, they have been having longer conversations, he said.

No fanfare for triumphant Bayaniban dance troupe

By Tarra Quismundo

NO LAVISH AIRPORT HOMECOMING AWAITED the victorious Bayaniban Dance Company which took place honors from the World Folk Dance Festival in Spain, when the troupe arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday on the heels of an [illegible] dumapeng Manny Pacquiao and Gerardo Concepcion.

The 25 proud delegates, including seven musicians and 16 dancers, casually walked with other passengers into the terminal where they were met with unimpressive gestures by Department of Tourism personnel.

The multi-awarded 39-year-old Bayaniban was declared "absolute winners" in the grand champion of the World Folk Dance Festival's 22nd competition last Saturday, beating delegations from 30 countries of Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

The troupe's entry was an eight-minute performance called "The Voyage for Love and Peace," which told the tale of love crossed knots through several famous Philippine folk dances in the Rondalan repertoire, including the singkil and the bultong. They won the nod of the judges from Spain, Australia, Argentina, the United Kingdom and India.

"We dispersed the voyage for love and peace. We weaved the dances together with the story," said the company's executive director Susie Benitez.

She said no scenario in this story of the Philippines, we wanted them to see our culture, but we also wanted to win. And at when they called out the grand champion, we were all holding us high, and so proud, and the sprinkling of Filipinos who were there were all crying with us," she said.

RP seaman who rescued rescuer honored

By Jerome Aning

A FILIPINO SEAMAN, WHO SAVED THE life of a rescue worker in Sweden five months ago, was given an award for his heroism by a Swedish humanitarian.

The Foundation of the Swedish Sea Heroes Honored Jesus Samonte during simple rites at the Department of Labor and Employment on Monday.

Samonte gave up his oxygen mask to a rescue worker who had been weakened by noxious fumes while responding to an emergency on board the ship, Ingia Spray, where the Filipino seaman worked.

"It was the only way to keep him alive. He was clearly dying and I couldn't just leave him," Samonte said.

Samonte, 33, a native of Salcedo, Eastern Samar and a seaman for 10 years, received 25,000 Swedish krona (about P170,000) as well as a plaque from the foundation.

Gunnar Lahne, secretary-general Sten Rimm, Swedish Ambassador Annika Markovic and foundation chair Christer Thelaeus all praised Samonte for his exceptional sense of duty, saying the seaman had set an example for the 500 Filipino seafarers working on Swedish ships.

Samonte, who looked happy and proud of the recognition said he would save the reward money for the future needs of his two young daughters, Jeannelle and Jeannemarie.

The ship emergency took place on Nov. 16 last year while Ingia Spray was docked at the harbor of Helsingborg in southern Sweden.

A fellow seaman, Ferdinand Pascual, also a Filipino, had descended a three-story-high shaft that led to the ship's cargo hold. He collapsed there, because of an unknown reason.

The port authorities sent a three-man rescue team to help Pascual. It was later learned that the hold was filled with poisonous carbon monoxide gas.

The rescuers tried to get out of the shaft, but one was left behind, too weak to continue.

Learning about the emergency through the on-board radio, Samonte went to the ship's the master, grabbed a breathing apparatus and tried to rescue the trapped men.

He reached the hold and found Pascual who was already dead. Next, he found the trapped rescuer worker who was barely conscious. He tried to carry him out but he was too heavy.

Samonte left his oxygen mask with the rescuer and started climbing out to get help. He became dizzy and weak because of the poisoned air.

"I was so afraid I wouldn't get out alive," said Samonte, who managed to climb out but was hospitalized for half a day.

Despite his near death experience, Samonte said he was going back to pursue his seafaring career.

He said his dream was to become a ship officer someday.

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Palawan 'command votes' not enough for 12-0 Unity win

By Cynthia D. Balana

PUERTO PRINCESA—DALAWA of "command votes," the political legacy of Palawan said a 12-0 administration sweep of the senatorial lineup was "impossible" but pledged a "majority win" for President Arroyo's Team Unity in the May 14 polls.

So-called command votes, estimated by a recent Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey at 19 percent, are the votes of people who simply follow the commands of their leaders.

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, Palawan Governor Joel Reyes and Representative Abraham Mitra and famous Aetas—all of whom are now allied with the administration's Team Unity (TU)—yesterday said that although President Macapagal-Arroyo did not win in Palawan in 2004, they would now help ensure she gets "most of the senatorials."

Machinery is what matters in victory said Hagedorn, who reportedly mans the other local leaders led TU candidates to a sweep through the province's governorship, provincial board and provincial positions. It has half a million voters.

Palawan has traditionally been an opposition bailiwick. But Hagedorn noted that the opposition was not well organized in the province this time.

The 1995 survey which touched on command votes was one survey welcomed by administration candidates, who lag behind opposition candidates in other sample polls.

Call it the "local machinery vote," said former presidential chief of staff Mike Defensor, now one of the TU senatorial candidates.

There are the votes that are counting on to win the elections, he told reporters, canvassing that each TU candidate could get at least 10 percent of the command votes. This in addition to the blue votes of religious groups such as the Iglesia ni Kristo and El Shaddai.

Aguinaldo del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay said he believed that the command vote percentage was much higher in reality.

"Even in Metro Manila, pag may ally ng kapitan at or mayor sa isang distrito, nandoon ng mga votes. (Where the village captain or the mayor our those are the people to vote for, votes will follow)," Pichay said.

"This is actually a local fight," added Zambales Gov. Vic Magsaysay, another TU senatorial aspirant.

Former Gov. Vicente Sotto III, also on the TU slate, said he also did not believe the 19 percent command vote estimate of the SWS survey.

"I was a vice mayor. I know from experience, command was less, with up the 10's all a command vote, nothing else," he said.

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marie france

Pacquiao tops Black and White poll 'blacklist'

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THE BLACK AND WHITE MOVEMENT TESTerday launched a campaign against more than 70 congressional candidates, including the two sons of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Cheating champion Manny Pacquiao.

Group convenor Hernani Barrazo said the campaign is aimed at ensuring that a future impeachment bid against Ms Arroyo would succeed.

"We can campaign against known GMA lackeys to send a strong statement that we disapprove of her governance," said Barrazo.

The group presented an alternative list of candidates—49 House bets and 11 party-list groups, who they said had the "moral courage" to stand up against the administration.

The Black and White Movement said its separate black and white lists would "provide an opportunity for our countrymen to express their indignation" over issues like corruption, election fraud and extra-judicial killings.

The group wants to change the composition of the administration-dominated House of Representatives by discouraging voters from electing administration candidates.

Of the 74 candidates running for House seats, the Black and White Movement identified 11 that they intend to campaign against.

These are: Marlon Ordanes (Quezon City), Ernesto Enriquez (Makati City), Jose de Venecia (Pangasinan), Mikey Arroyo (Pampanga), Rozzano Rufino Biazon (Muntinlupa City), Dato Mamapagal Arroyo (Camarines Sur), Luis Villafuerte (Camarines Sur), Raul Gonzalez Jr. (Iloilo City), Iggy Arroyo (Negros Occidental), Mohaifer Pangandaman (Basilan), Erlpe de Orio, Mattix Pangcoa (South Cotabato) and Virgilio Lacuchua (Bukidnon).

Instead of electing these candidates, the Black and White Movement endorsed their opponents: Jaime Salimbangon (Davao City), Abigail Binay (Makati City), Benjamin Lim (Pangasinan), Jose Montemayor (Pampanga), Linnaeus Vaynes Cham (Camarines Sur), Rufus Rodrigo (Cotabato Sur), Charlie Flores (Sharon), Bonjie Gaspar (Iloilo City), Alfredo Marañon (Negros Occidental), Tony Boy Sumaya (Cagayan de Oro) Darlene Antonino-Custodio (South Cotabato), Hafora Awana (Bukidnon).

Those blacklisted include candidates dear to the administration. Reference is the father and wife of Mike Defensor, a senatorial candidate. Mikey and Dato Arroyo are sons of the President, while Iggy Arroyo is the President's brother-in-law.

JC delos S. Alave

Corrections

IN THE APRIL 11 ISSUE, a Global Pinoy article on Page A22, "Hans Johnny Air comes to its"—misspelled the surname of a Filipino entrepreneur based in New York. The entrepreneur's name is Jhanne de Asis—not de Asis.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a photo caption on the same page misspelled the surname of the founder of an air cargo company in New York. Johnny Air Cargo's founder is Jean Abad Santos Medina—not Nabbs.

* * *

IN THE APRIL 16 ISSUE, a front page story—"MNLF commander declares 'holy war' on gov't"—misnamed the second subordinate of Moro National Liberation Front founder Nur Misuari. Misuari is under house arrest in New Manila, Quezon City. He is no longer jailed in a police camp south of Manila.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, an article on Page A23—"IC links employee to Silliman investment case"—misspelled the first name of the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice's name is Reynato—not Renato.—Eds

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Star Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mayapis Street, Makati City, fax this #897-67-92/94; e-mail address: <stardesk@inquirer.com.ph>

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Court gives Trillanes access to media, but...

By DJ Yap

A MAKATI COURT has allowed media interviews for detained senator-elect Antonio Trillanes.

But there's a catch.

He is not allowed to talk about his case and should focus on political and national issues instead. The media are also required to submit their interview questions and schedules beforehand.

In an order released yesterday, Judge Oscar Pimentel of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148 granted Trillanes' motion for reconsideration upending the restrictive provision imposed on his partner by media access.

However, he laid out specific conditions for the order dated March 15, including the prohibition of any discussion about his coup d'etat case pending before the court.

"To make sure that unnecessary statements will not be given, the reporters, journalists, and other media people are advised to refrain from or submit to the court their proposed questions and issues," he said.

"Likewise, they are mandated to file their manifestation or where they intend to interview accused. [Trillanes] and the time of such interview," the judge added.

Pimentel also said the journalists should also file a similar manifestation to the Philippine Marine Brig, where Trillanes is detained, three days before the schedule for clearance.

His lawyer Reynaldo Robles said he was very happy that the court granted the motion.

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Citing SC, Jovy says nominees may be bared

By Norman Bordadora

SOLMIS SENATE PRESIDENT JOKETO AR-royo yesterday said the chance for the publication of the names of nominees of party-list groups participating in the May 14 elections is supported by a Supreme Court decision.

"The Supreme Court issued guidelines to enable the Comelec in determining which of the parties/organizations and their nominees are qualified to represent the marginalized and underrepresented," Salonga, acting as counsel for the Akbayan party-list group, wrote in a letter to the Commission on Elections.

He noted in particular the seventh guideline which said that "not only the candidate, party or organization must represent marginalized and underrepresented sectors, it also must do so."

Salonga also was quoting from the Supreme Court decision in the case of Ang Bagong Bayani-OFW Labor Party vs Comelec in Decem-ber 2000, which was penned by former Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban.

Compromised public's right

Akbayan claims that the Comelec's refusal to release the names of the party-list groups' nominees compromised the public's right to check whether the nominees conformed to the constitutional qualifications.

"Surely, the interest of the youth cannot be represented by a senior citizen or any of the urban poor or the working class by an industrialist. It is often otherwise a violation to the state policy to give genuine representation to the marginalized and underrepresented," said the Salonga letter, quoting from the Panganiban decision.

"How can the marginalized and underrepresented be represented by nominees of Mala-cañang or by a close relative of any Comelec commissioner," he added, speaking for himself and his Akbayan.

Akbayan has alleged that party-list groups like Bahay Ko, Ang Kasangga, Abay Pinoy, Mata, Kabisa, Abay Pinoy, OFW Party, Bayan-ihan Pinoy Atasi, Anagni nga Kabuhayan, Agbing, Bonat, Barug-Gapo and Aging Pinoy were administration fronts.

In his letter, Salonga asked the Comelec, either collectively or individually, to confirm or deny "within five days" a news report saying that the Comelec would not release the names of party-list nominees.

Yesterday, the Comelec appeared to be standing firm on its decision not to release the names of the party-list nominees.

"We have decided on our position already. The party-list election system is an election for the party-list organization, its platform and its advocacy," Comelec Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. told a press briefing.

With a report from Nikko Dizon

One heart is conjoined twins' key to survival

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE BABY GIRL WITH TWO HEADS AND three feet born to octuplets in Bulacan last week has been brought to the Philippine General Hospital where doctors are assessing the case.

The condition is actually one of the rarest types of conjoined twins or tri-bodies that failed to completely separate.

A case in a million condition, they are called dicephalus twins and are so conjoined that they look like one body with two heads. PGH spokesperson Melinda Ho-Gil De Ocampo said.

Originally named Mary Divine Grace, the baby girl now named Mary Grace and Mary Divine.

Initial assessment showed the twins have two separate and functioning heads, two spinal columns, two airways, two pairs of lungs and separate kidneys. But they share only one heart. A large liver, also does not appear to be separated, doctors said.

Their common torso is shared, but with the presence of a fistula, a small opening where urine can come out, they are not yet suffering from intestinal obstruction, according to a medical bulletin.

Chance of survival

Their condition is only the second case of dicephalus twins seen by PGH doctors. The first case died immediately after birth, said pediatric surgeon Arthur Nagorcka-Bagtang.

Mary Grace and Mary Divine, however, seem much stronger, Jagtol told media. They are now being bottle-fed separately through feeding tubes.

They stay in the ward. It shares roaming glass thermal boxes from numerous curious onlookers.

"We talk to these relatives and parents to explain to them the situation," Nagtol said.

They appear to be stable. Their blood pressure and their heart beat also remain normal, she said.

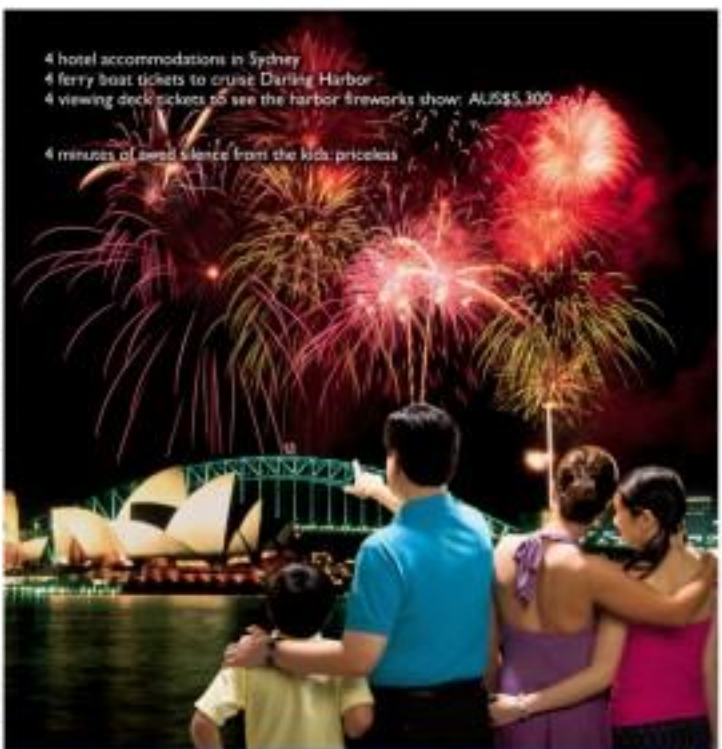
In fact, she added, if they do not get an infection, they could be released in a few days.

The doctor said their chance of survival will greatly depend on their heart.

"We are not sure if one heart can support two bodies," Jagtol said.

Also, because they share only one heart, separation in their case is unlikely.

PGH is no stranger to conjoined twins. The first successful separation of such twins there was in 1984.



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MAGALLANES BUY-BUST-SLAYS

Jaylo convicted of homicide

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TEN SAN(BARAHAN) YESTERDAY METED out jail terms to controversial ex-police Capt. Reynaldo Jaylo and three others after they were found guilty of homicide for the killing of three suspected heroin drug dealers during a bungled buy-bust operation in Makati City almost 17 years ago.

Jaylo and his former colleagues at the Western Police District, patrolmen Edgardo Castro, Pfc. William Valenzuela and Leonardo Fabiala, were sentenced to a prison term of six years and one day to 14 years and eight months and ordered each to pay the kin of their victims P50,000 in damages.

Billed as what the former police officers claimed to be a shootout on July 14, 1990, at the Magallanes Commercial Center in Makati were Sonny Col. Rolando de Guzman, Maj. Primo Calaong and Inciong Supanganan, alias Inciong Magallanes.

On Sept. 8, 1992, murder charges were filed with the Sandiganbayan against the former policemen, but the court ruled the case as homicide after the prosecution failed to prove the elements of murder in the case.

In a 103-page decision written by Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, the court said the prosecution failed to establish that the policemen conspired with and aided one another in killing the victims.

There was also no evidence of treachery and use of excessive force, the court said.

But the court found the accused guilty of homicide after their admission on killing the victims and their failure to prove that the incidents was "a circumstance of lawful performance of official duty."

Court records showed that the $10-million heroin shipment allegedly seized by the Bureau of Investigation's case involving the sale of heroin in the country in 1990.

Jaylo was then detailed at the NBI as the chief of the reaction group that handled special or sensational cases, especially on drugs.

In his testimony, Jaylo admitted shooting native De Guzman, who was allegedly peddling the 10-kilo heroin, during the buy-bust operation after the latter allegedly tried to shoot him when he introduced himself as a police officer.

Castro also admitted to firing at Calaong four times while Valenzuela and Fabiala, who did not testify in court, admitted to the Ombudsman Finding committee, an investigating body created by then President Corazon Aquino, that they each fired rates at the prosecutors.

But the court said that all the accused and they were performing their duty and were merely reacting to an "imminent threat to their lives."

But the court concluded that in the absence of "convincing" evidence that the victims forcefully resisted arrest, it was clear that the accused deliberately made the incident was in fulfillment of their duties.

Daily defense lawyer, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez was present during the promulgation yesterday. His clients' whereabouts could not be known, he informed the court.

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Hackers dared: Break Internet voting system

By Hilda Dizon

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS is challenging computer hackers to test the Internet voting process once the system is implemented, to ensure that it is tamper-proof, according to election officials (comelec).

"We are inviting international and local hackers to determine the security of voting by Internet," said Comelec Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr., who chairs the Commission on Overseas Absentee Voting (COMV).

Hackers will be asked to penetrate the Internet system, which is used in the absentee voting process for Filipinos overseas workers or dual citizens in foreign countries, "not for criminal or nefarious activities, but as one test to ensure such as the firewalls," he said.

He said the hackers would be invited through the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), described in its website as a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., which "provides technical assistance across many areas of democracy development" in more than 20 countries.

The Comelec is "very sure" that the Internet voting system, supplied by the Spanish-based Smartmatic Corp., is secure, according to Tuason.

The government of Switzerland has approved Scot's system, "and when you say it's been approved by the Swiss government, that has a lot of respect in the global community," he said.

The Comelec has allotted P25.5 million for the Internet voting system.

The poll body was supposed to go live over the system during the absentee voting in Singapore but backed out it all after various questions on its legality dimming Internet voting was not approved by legislature.

Tuason said the Comelec decided to drop Internet voting in Singapore out of "prudence," as legal challenges might just head in the direction unfavorable to the implementation of absentee votes in the city-state.

Instead, the Comelec will carry out a "nontinuing" pilot test of the process in Singapore on July 03.

As of yesterday, Tuason said 2,029 absentee voters have cast their votes, 911 of them in Hong Kong.

There are a little over 164,000 overseas absentee voters. Tuason said he would be "very happy" with a voter turnout of more than 50 percent, considering that this is not a presidential election.

Meanwhile, Tuason said a formal complaint has to be filed before the Comelec by anyone wanting to question the alleged campaign ban of administration senatorial candidates Mike Defensor and Jose Miguel Arroyo in Hong Kong from April 14, the day the overseas absentee voting began. Overseas voting lasts for a month.

He said he was informed that the two senatorial candidates were going to Hong Kong on April 14, and he unconfirmedly informed the Philippine consulate there to "issue guidelines."

"There should be no campaigning on the 14th because the campaign ended on the 12th," Tuason said.

He said he has yet to receive a report from the Philippine consulate in Hong Kong about whether the two candidates had violated election rules.

KC to Hold Nat'l Convention in CDO

Over 2,000 leaders and members of the Knights of Columbus are expected to attend their 7th National Convention to Cagayan de Oro city on Friday, April 20.

The three-day convention will begin with a concelebrated Mass to be presided by Malaybalay Bishop Honesto Pacana at the Grand Cathedral Restaurant. The annual state dinner will have CBCP Vice President and Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, SJ as guest speaker.

Among the highlights of this year's convention is the recognition and awarding of this year's "Among Heroes"- the prestigious "Knight of the Year" Family of the Year" awards which recognizes and honor members in the exemplary service to the community.

KC Supreme President Edgar Martinez, KC Philippine Foundation Inc. president Antonio Tan, Philadelphia Deputy Executive San Juan, Visayas Deputy Eduardo Cacer and Cacer Deputy Rodolfo Magsino will lead the awarding ceremonies.

CBCP President and Jaro Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo will lead the concelebrated Mass on Saturday, April 21 and address the K of C Assembly.

Other speakers also include Cebu Bishop Honesto Ongtioco on the topic "Family—Sanctity of Marriage", "Columbia" editor Mr. Tom Hickey on the "Supreme Of fice Publication", and K of C Administrative Assistant Tom Gotay.

The Knights of Columbus, is one of the country's largest Catholic family fraternal service organizations with over 200,000 members from nearly 1,000 councils nationwide.

The Knights of Columbus was founded by Rev. Fr. Michael J. McGivney in New York Haven, Connecticut in 1882.

In the Philippines, the Knights of Columbus began to take roots in 1903 with the chartering of Manila Council 1000 with Americans serving as first active and dedicated members.

Fr. George Willman, SJ founded the KC Fraternal Association of the Philippines, Inc., in 1998 with P12,000 contributions from 64 members for the purpose of providing financial assistance to Filipinos in times of calamities.

Today the Knights of Columbus stands strong with P2 billion in resources and multi-faceted religious and civic programs aimed at helping society and the Church. (Mar Espiritu)

Lucky and Flo, dynamic canine duo, inseparable

By DJ Yap

LUCKY AND FLO, THE DYNAMIC CANINE DUO who made headlines after stuffing out millions of dollars worth of hoarding clues in Malaysia, complement each other and work best together, according to their trainer, David Mayberry.

"They're not working partners. They're friends," Mayberry said of the 4-year-old Labrador retriever explosives expert in Minnesota had completed narcotic patrols to put a heavenly on their heads.

"It would be cruel to split them now," the dog trainer said yesterday at a press conference in Makati City, jointly called by the Special Media Board and the Motion Picture Association.

The black Labradors, who seem identical to their glances, have different personalities.

"Lucky is humorous and flamboyant while Flo is lady-like and methodical or manner," Mayberry said.

Following a high-profile case in Malaysia where they sniffed out 1.3 million tins worth $3.3-million (P167 million), Lucky and Flo are rewarded to the company over the weekend.

"We don't tell you where they're staying or how much they're getting paid. They were concerned about their safety," Odeh chair Ida Marziana told reporters.

"Wanted alle dire (They're wanted here)," Yesterday, we seized 900,000 discs with their help. The pirates lost a lot of money because of them," he said.

Lucky and Flo were dispatched to malls in the cities of Makati, Mandaluyong and Pasig on Monday to sniff out pirated DVDs and CDs hidden in curtains and under stacks of clothing to conclude the raiding teams.

The black Labradors from Minnesota have trained are said to be the only ones in the world trained to detect polycarbonate and chemicals used to optical discs.

They were initially brought to Malaysia in February for a one-month trial by the US-based MPA, which is investigating piracy for major movie companies.

During a demonstration of the pair's abilities, MPA and ORIS agents placed sacks, bags and a box on the floor. Only one of the containers had optical discs, and it was the dogs' task to identify which one it was.

Lucky soon flew her nose was discovered by the camera and the curious crowd in the press conference. When it was Flo's turn, she seemingly ignored them and more deliberate in the smell of the containers. After several seconds, she finally settled on the box and sat still.

It was a positive find. The box carried stacks of optical discs. With a report from AFP

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METROBANK

Supreme Court upholds Drilon's LP leadership

From page A1

members took part in the election conducted in March 2006 by Manila Mayor Jose "Lito" Atienza Jr., who effectively replaced Drilon as party president. Michael Defensor, then President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, was elected party chair.

The LP was subsequently split into the Atienza and Drilon factions.

Drilon had angered the Atienza faction when he withdrew from a political coalition with President Macapagal-Arroyo and called for her resignation as a result of the alleged fraud in the May 2004 presidential elections.

Voting 9-5, the high court upheld Drilon's mandate to govern the LP until November 2007 and ordered the validity of the amendments to the party's charter that he introduced in 2004, according to Jose Midas Marquez, the party's chief public information officer.

Ganging by the original party charter of 1999, "Drilon was [LP] president only during the interim period portion of the term of the predecessor, former Senator Serge Osmeña[Abad," Marquez told reporters. This meant that Drilon's term ended in 2004.

'It doesn't make sense'

However, the high court ruled that the amendments changing the rules were valid.

"That means Senator Drilon, when he was elected in 2004, had a fresh mandate to serve for three years ending in November 2007," Marquez said.

Atienza said his camp would file a motion for reconsideration.

"The decision does not make sense in the earlier Supreme Court decision on this matter it remanded the authority on the issue to the [Commission on Elections]," he said in Manila.

Sedfrey Ordoñez in a statement: "We are elated by the Supreme Court decision upholding the legal basis of leadership of the Liberal Party and we hope that this will signal the long awaited reunification of the only genuine political party of the country.

"We have always maintained that in the end, the rule of law will prevail over unscrupulous political maneuverings by those who seek to exploit the party for selfish, personal interests other than the welfare of the members."

The Comelec reinstated Drilon in October 2006 when it ruled that the Atienza-led election was a sham.

As a result, LP members supporting Drilon challenged before the Supreme Court the Comelec's jurisdiction over the party leadership, asserting that the new rules had legalized his presidency.

Defensor, now a re-elected candidate of the administration-ally Team Unity, said the decision to bring was not ratified by the high court's decision.

"We will have a conference to prepare for the party convention. We are confident of the victory of the LP faction wing as our position is the overwhelming sentiment of the membership of the party," he said in a text message.

Other opinions

Two associate justices—Jose Vitug and Antonio Carpio—offered separate opinions.

Vitug said Drilon could "no longer be legally deemed as the party president, [yet] the decisions done was not legally elected to [sic] by officers either."

He defended the Comelec's "awesome jurisdiction over political parties involved in the electoral process," saying dismissing the poll body's authority would have serious consequences on the May 14 elections.

But Carpio said: "Neither the Comelec nor this court has the power to resolve an intra-party dispute on who is elected as a party president unless...in this case, whether a party should continue to political alignment with the incumbent President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

He cited Atienza's arguments that Drilon "drove a deep wedge among party members" when he withdrew support from Ms Arroyo.

Public information officer Marquez said the high court's ruling "is the final and executory decision that the Comelec had oversight control over the LP dispute."

He said this addressed a query posed by Drilon as to how much control the Comelec had over party matters.

But it also ruled that "the Red Dove Edition amendments to the [Dr. Jovito Salonga] constitution had been validly ratified."

Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales (whom Serino says the decision declares "can claim that its political position is presented by law."

"The Drilon faction cannot ask the Comelec or this court to prescribe its decision on substantive [internal] support to the President. Neither can the Atienza faction seek the Comelec or this court's assistance to enforce its political decision to support the President," Carpio-Morales said.

"The Comelec or this court must not wade into the murky waters of internal party politics," he said.

No effect

In Manila, Drilon said the LP petition in the Comelec to be recognized the dominant minority party in the May 14 elections would not be affected by the court decision.

FEELING VINDICATED after the release of the Supreme Court ruling, Sen. Franklin Drilon says the reunification of the Liberal Party may be in the offing before the May 14 elections.

GMA tells AFP: Pursue MNLF rebel

From page A1

ing of civilians who may be caught in the crossfire," Bunye said in a text message.

"We cannot have a proper agreement arranged to the safety of the location," he said.

"We acknowledge the aid of the OIC for peace in Sulu ... But even the OIC would agree that any government will have to deal firmly with any and all unprofessional acts against the constitutional rights of the people by the supposed armed group of Usman Hadji."

Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., AFP chief of staff, yesterday offered a P1-million reward for the capture of Malik, according to Brig. Gen. Ruperto Pelmoras, head of the Joint Special Operations Group. He is first named in the list.

"The capture of Malik will be expedited with the bounty," Pelmoras said in a telephone interview.

'Hot pursuit operations'

On Monday, Solicitor General Alicia dela Rosa-Santiago of the 57-nation OIC based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, called for a cessation of hostilities on Jolo and full implementation of the 1996 peace agreement it helped broker between the Philippine government and MNLF.

But officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the AFP said the military activity on Jolo was a "hot pursuit operation" aimed at neutralizing Malik after his group shelled a Marine base in Jolo's Panamao town on Friday killing two soldiers and a child living outside the facility.

Intermittent fighting has broken out since the signing of the 1996 peace accord. In 2000, MNLF founding chair Nur Misuari launched a rebellion for which he is now under house arrest in Manila. In February 2005, Malik led an uprising that left 27 soldiers dead, including Lt. Col. Dennis Villanueva, in Panamao.

Malik has called for Misuari's release. But Defense Secretary said his current offensive on Jolo was aimed at establishing him as the sole leader of the MNLF recognized by the OIC as the sole representative of the Moros. The government is also engaged to peace talks with another rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Little emergency relief aid

Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, military spokesperson, said yesterday another soldier was killed in the fighting and that rebel dead included 17 for an overall toll of 27 since the outbreak of violence on Jolo on Friday, according to Reuters. Troops have seized Malik's camp in Panamao and another encampment in Talipao.

In Zamboanga City, Director Alfredo Aie of the Office of Civil Defense said only 14,000 of the 41,000 villagers or 8,423 families had received emergency aid. Aie said his agency had little supplies, adding "we need more support from other organizations."

The National Disaster Coordinating Council said 1,353 displaced families were in Indanan, 699 in Talipao, 1,027 in Tungkil, 1,215 in Luuk, 761 in Pangutaran Enino, 569 in Jolo and 1,440 in Patikulan. They were temporarily staying in schools and public buildings lacking toilets and potable water.

The PDOC figures did not include an unspecified number of those staying with relatives and a fourth batch of evacuees from Barung Laum, where clashes erupted yesterday.

Lt. Cesar Sereno, commander of the 2nd Marine Brigade, has called on Malik and his followers to surrender "or as not to endanger more lives of innocent civilians."

Sereno's group is now occupying Malik's former camp, Camp Abdul Ghazi in Barangay Bitan-ag in Panamao.

Sereno said his troops remained to defend the made inside the camp because Malik's group has been trying to retake it.

Abu in cahoots

General Esperon said there would be no let up in the military operations in Sulu, especially now that the Abu Sayyaf has joined the ongoing fight. "We are not suspending operations against Ustadz Malik," Esperon told reporters.

Referring to calls by the OIC for a ceasefire, Esperon said, "there have been no hostilities in the first place between the AFP and the MNLF ... This is an operation to arrest Ustadz Malik." Esperon said he could not allow Malik to "just go scot free."

Esperon: "So once that Malik says 'No more war' go of the AFP-Esperon thanked other MNLF commanders in Jolo, including Malik's superior Khadafi Janjalani, "for not taking this against the AFP and for cooperating" in the military operations.

Permanent AFP camp

Esperon said a military unit would permanently occupy the former MNLF camp in Panamao.

Also yesterday, officials reported that suspected Abu Sayyaf militants had abducted seven men on Jolo, including six workers for a government road project and police security escort, to reach three to six years and their abductors, the Associated Press said.

The six road project workers were heading to Indanan from Patikul when Abu Sayyaf gunmen blocked their truck and seized them on Monday, police chief Supt. Joel Goltiao said. A truck full of factory workers was separately abducted by the gunmen the same day in Panamao, he said.

The kidnappings drew fear that the Abu Sayyaf remains capable of banditry and other acts of terrorism despite harder setbacks it has incurred due to a massive U.S.-backed military offensive that started in August, prompting tens thousands to flee Jolo.

With reports from Reuters, AP

Palace says only 10.5M Pinoys live on $1/day

From page A1

than more million for you, he said.

On Monday, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the number of Filipinos living on $1 a day this week would be the lowest.

Microfinancing

In an interview, Ongpauthon said that between 2000 and 2006, "the government had already done a lot of microfinancing" and that "microfinancing, microcredit is through micro financing."

Listed as low as P12,000 to P15,000 have allowed jobless Pinoys to put up sari-sari stores or food stalls, or buy sewing machines, "people" used the money to ride the backyard enterprises that would quickly down or "sell em-played."

The Department of Social Welfare and Development alone has released disbursed financing for 1.3 million small enterprenours since 2004, he reported.

Also, Ongpauthon said the real no of "$1" as used in the World Bank's poverty threshold "is the threshold" needed further re-planning because it depended on a country's standard of living or the prices of local goods.

Load of bread

In the United States, for instance, $1 (about P48) can buy a small loaf of bread, and yet that same loaf can be had for only P35 to P40 in the Philippines, he said.

The economic czar under such measure, the poorest the ruled in the country is "significantly lower"... P20 or less, according to Ongpauthon.

With $1, he noted, an individual in the country could already buy a combination of food items...a kilo of rice, a can is can of sardines, or canned noodles, etc.—which may be enough to sustain him for a day.

Ongpauthon, militant labor groups blamed the poverty being experienced by many Filipinos to the government's economic policies.

Unabated deregulation

"It is the government, pursuing economic liberalization and unabated deregulation, that is responsible for more people now to fall below the poverty line and unable to live on more than $1 a day" said alliance of Progressive Labor secretary general Joshua Mata.

For the Kilusang Mayo Uno, the World Bank report only bolsters workers' demands for a wage increase and high paying and secure jobs.

On the campaign trail, workers' rights leader Beyra, who is on the slate of the administration's Team Unity (TU), said the short-term solution to extreme poverty would be safety nets, such as schooling program for needy children and families.

Team Unity Gutierrez, an opposition senatorial candidate, said the World Bank report merely confirmed the finding of the Social Weather Stations survey that one out of every five Filipinos were going hungry due to the administration's lack of progress for education, employment and production.

The poverty levels have worsened since the Philippine population has swelled to 89 million from 76.5 million in 2000, Gutierrez said.

TU blames Estrada

But the TU said former President Joseph Estrada was to blame for the millions of Filipinos living on less than $1 a day in 2000.

"Unfortunately President Estrada had virtually done nothing to improve the lives of the poor during his entire despite his supposed promise 'pro-masa' agenda," TU deputy spokesperson Enrique Alfonso said in a statement. With reports from Jerome Lobo, Jonathan Hicap, Cynthia D. Rebong, Ed C. Cabucungan Jr. and Jimmie Asuig

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8. The draw will be held on June 29, 2007 at the PMPMI building, Inc. head office at 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila, in the presence of a BIR-RMC representative. The following prizes will be drawn with the corresponding cash price for the most raffle owner:

Quantity	Description of Prize	Cash Prize for Above Market Value
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50	Sony Ericsson W890i mobile phone	Not applicable
70	Oakley Romeo 2 eyewear	Not applicable
100	Apple Ipod Shuffle	Not applicable

9. The names of the winners will be published in one of the leading newspapers not later than July 15, 2007. Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes. By participating, the winners agree to the inclusion of their names and/or pictures in the Winners Advertisement.
10. Nonresident winners must show valid ID and cash prizes only for the 2007 Audi TT Coupe, Sony Bravia KLV-40S550A, and Sony Cybershot DSC-T 90 digital camera prizes. To qualify, the latest model owner must be at least 18 years old. In the event that the winner is also the Ayala Land owner, he or she qualifies with both his car ownership prize and the cash prize for the latest model.
11. If a winning entry does not bear the name and address of the above-stated The entry will be invalid and a substituted winner will be declared for the corresponding cash prize.
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13. In claiming a prize, the winner must present the original notification telegram from PMPMI and two (2) original and valid identification documents (Driver's license, Passport, SSS Certificate) and Tax Identification Number (TIN). For the prize/s, the winner/s must also show the following information below. If the ID submitted do not contain the following, three (3) pieces of information, it will not be accepted as valid proof of identification:

- Full Name
- Date of Birth or Age
- Signature

14. In case the winner is unable to present two (2) original and valid IDs acceptable to PMPMI, he/she must submit seven affidavits, executed by two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his/her identity and a certification from the respective municipality/city official stating that he/she is a resident of the said municipality/city.
15. In cases wherein the winner cannot personally claim the prize for any reason, he/she can send a proxy. The proxy should be able to present the following:

- A letter of authorization duly signed by the winner, specifying the proxy as the authorized recipient of the prize/s the winner is entitled.
- Two (2) original and valid IDs of the proxy (one a valid id showing the name and picture) as mentioned / due to
- Two (2) original and valid IDs of the winner.
- Original copy of the authorization released from PMPMI.

16. Except as previously provided in paragraph 13, an entry can only win once. If a person is drawn more than once, the winner will receive the prize of the higher value and a winner for the other prize will be re-drawn.
17. Prizes will be supplied with standard applied warranties only unless available. PMPMI and its agents will not be liable with respect to any death or injury or consequential loss or damage arising from the use of any prize. In any respect, will not be liable for any warranty.
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19. PMPMI will only pay final winning taxes on prizes according to more than PHP 10,000. Except as expressly provided herein, PMPMI will not be liable in the payment for any taxes, costs, liabilities or expenses that may arise out of ownership or use of the prizes. When applicable, registration of vehicle and attendant costs shall be the responsibility of, and for the account of, the winner.
20. All decisions of PMPMI and its agents are final and no disputes will be entertained.
21. Employees of PMPMI, their affiliates, distributors, advertising and promotions agencies, as well as their relatives up to the 3rd degree of consanguinity or affinity, and DOH RPCE are not eligible to participate in this promotion.
22. These terms and conditions are subject to any relevant law, government directive and regulation. The promotion will be void where prohibited or restricted by law. Winner of any action arising under this promotion shall be brought solely in the proper courts of Makati City, or other available venue of suit having valued.

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By Dona Pazlibugan

SENATORIAL CANDIDATES ARE AIMING themselves with sunblock and bottled water, among other things, to keep up with their campaign activities despite some of the hottest recorded temperatures in recent memory.

In senator-hopeful Dominique "Kiko" Cuneta, no longer can a campaign outreach her name or a like she used to—pure relentless. She wears a cool crown-shirt with a patch saying, "Cuneta for senator" to identify herself to the people.

Sliding on the back of a six-wheeler truck dancing to the oldies as she shelters strong sunblock (with SPF 70) and drinks plenty of water during activities.

"Mahigpit sa balat kasi hindi ako sanay dyan sa cream. Ayaw talaga ako sa ibabaw ng lifyem mahirap ng ma-'The best hats: my skin since I'm not riding inside a car. I ride on the back of an SUV truck so people can see me," said Cuneta, a veteran of running national campaigns.

Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III schedules his motorcades in the morning and avoids exposure to direct sunlight.

"As much as possible, we hold our motorcades in the morning since the heat is worse in the afternoon. We put a cover in the back of the pick-up truck or we use an umbrella," said Pimentel, who's running for senator for the first time.

He makes sure he drinks plenty of water throughout the day but he doesn't use sunblock "because it feels like always drinks plenty of water."

Reelectionist Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. sometimes wears sunblock but he always drinks plenty of water.

Reelectionist Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile sometimes wears sunblock but he always drinks plenty of water.

To beware Loren Legarda takes a break during sunrise to feature up and change her clothes so she always looks fresh, according to her staff. She also drinks plenty of water during sunrise and brings bananas, a power-energy booster.

Reelectionist Sen. Manuel Villar and his allies joined his entire motorcade were indoor activities.

"The best preventive measure when running out in the sunny, indoor activities are more preferable," he said.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III has warned candidates and their campaign staff to guard against excessive sun exposure.

"Wear a sunblock," said Duque, who was in Urdaneta City to launch this year's Iodized Salt Consumption.

Without a sunblock, Duque said it was practically for a person to suffer second-degree burns.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said the summer heat was expected to reach 36 degrees Celsius in Laoag. *With a report from Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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'Senators can't have allegiance to 2 countries'

By Nikko Dizon

A MEMBER OF THE PHILIPPINE SENATE should have allegiance to only one country, an election commissioner said yesterday.

This was the reason why the second division of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) ruled that Filipino-American Theodore Aquino could not seek a Senate seat in the May 14 midterm elections, Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. said in a press briefing.

"The law explicitly says that a dual citizen must expressly renounce his other citizenship if he wants to run for public office in the Philippines. And he did not do that," Tuason said.

Tuason stressed that an elected public official has to have complete allegiance to the Philippines.

Republic Act 9225 or the Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003 requires that those seeking public office "make a personal and sworn renunciation of any and all foreign citizenship."

The second division did not question the qualifications of Aquino, the commissioner said.

"I saw he was competent and qualified during the hearing. But the issue was his dual citizenship and not his qualifications," Tuason said.

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Recto: Artificial beats natural birth control, P150M to P1M

THE GOVERNMENT has allocated P150 million for artificial family planning and only P1 million for natural family planning.

"Artificial beats natural: 150 to 1. That's after the budget says, 'this should obviously reflect that government is not spending a single centavo for modern family planning practices,'" Bro. Eddie Villanueva fumed.

Bro. Eddie said "80 percent end government should provide budgetary support for modern methods of family planning, including the pill, IUD, vasectomy devices (IUDs), condoms, ligation and vasectomy."

The bomb under the 2007 General Appropriations Act sets to the Department of Health's P1.4 billion budget for the rest.

"Handing for natural family planning programs can, however, still be say, screwed by the P1.3 billion allocation for family health, including reproductive privacy and primary health care initiatives also under the DOH budget," Bro. Eddie said.

In all, there is an historic imbalance for family planning in this year's appropriations, Bro. Eddie said. He called for additional funding to be released to family planning programs to expand the menu of options.

"To summon, funding for the promotion and control of dengue, leprosy, tuberculosis, rabies got only P63 million in the year's budget," Bro. Eddie said.

To further underscore the primacy of family planning over other programs in the DOH budget for 2007, Bro. Eddie said taborers lean control has an allocation of P154 million, less than what has been earmarked for pagoda nun programs.

Bro. Eddie, however, conceded that funding for family planning TB, dengue, leprosy, at last, for the whole of 2007 itself, is sorely lacking.

A national poll conducted by Pulse Asia from Feb. 20 to March 2 showed 82 percent of the 1,800 respondents favoring increased government budgetary support for family planning.

Pulse Asia said "80 percent said government should provide budgetary support for modern methods of family planning, including the pill, IUD, vasectomy devices (IUDs), condoms, ligation and vasectomy."

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OPINION

Officially blind

EDITORIAL

RANKERS MAY STILL RECALL WHEN A DIPLOMATIC furor was caused two decades ago, when Japanese Emperor Hirohito expressed to President Carmen Apaisa his regret over Japan's conduct in the Philippines during World War II. The statement, it turned out, wasn't to be publicized. The Philippine government then, and until now, has always tiptoed around the question of Japan expressing remorse for its wartime conduct, because our country is a big recipient of Japanese economic assistance. In contrast, China and South Korea tend to be pointed in their official remarks on Japan's wartime record. The case of comfort women has been a particular cause to point. Filipina victims of Japanese sexual slavery have found little official encouragement or support.

Writing in the April 2 issue of Newsweek magazine, Japanese historian Hideki Kase questioned continuing demands for Japan to admit responsibility for, and issue a demand and restitution over, the sexual enslavement of comfort women during the war. Kase argues that apologizing for Japanese wartime atrocities caused women's war-motivated loss by someone done by being flush with cash and viewing apologies as a kind of marketing consideration. As Kase put it, "Japan was willing to ask forgiveness of its neighbors if this proved good for business."

Today, Kase says, the situation is different. The Japanese, he argues, are more nationalistic, their extended economic slump means there's less of a financial incentive for them to grovel to other nations, and a new generation of leaders, who have no memories of the war, have taken control (and they "don't understand why they should do penance for events that occurred before they were born").

Furthermore and worse, Kase suggests that the Chinese and South Korean governments have just used the issue for their own cynical, political purposes. But this view pales in comparison to what may be the most controversial passage in Kase's commentary: "But most Japanese can't understand why issues like the comfort women or the Nanking Massacre have resurfaced at all. Since World War II, the country has abided by the pacifism forced on it by the US occupation. To promote such pacifism, the Japanese media and intellectuals created an image of Japan as a war-like place that had to be prevented from rearming at all costs. To heighten the danger, the media also exaggerated or even invented wretched acts supposedly committed by Japan's imperial forces."

In an online commentary to the same magazine on March 30, Jeff Kingston took exception to Kase's assertions.

Take Kase's seeming gladness over the Nanking Massacre being expunged from Japanese textbooks. "The country's attitude has changed dramatically since the 1970s. In recent decades, for example, many Japanese history textbooks blamed Japanese forces for massacring 200,000 to 300,000 Chinese civilians in Nanking. Only one textbook mentions such events today."

Kingston counters that the Nanking Massacre has been well-documented by historians, in an small part due to eyewitness accounts by Japanese soldiers. The real issue is why there's a new effort at massacre denial, he says.

And as for the plight of comfort women, Kase wrote, "The fact is that the brothels were commercial establishments. US Army records explicitly declare that the comfort women were prostitutes, and found no instances of kidnapping by the Japanese authorities. It's also worth noting that some 40 percent of these women were of Japanese origin."

To which Kingston responded that "there is again plenty of evidence, accepted by most historians, that it was established at the behest of the Japanese military and was an institutionalized system of sexual slavery. [Prime Minister Shinzo] Abe and Kase's thanksgiving is an affront to the dignity of the elderly survivors and seriously undermines previous attempts by Tokyo to accept and atone for this gross violation of human rights."

Many a history professor at Kanto Gakuin University, Hirofumi Hayashi, says he has unearthed seven items from the documents submitted to the Tokyo Trials of wartime criminals in 1946-in 1948 showing that the military directly forced Asian women into slavery. Earlier another Japanese historian Yoshiaki Yoshimi found documents showing that the military set "comfort stations" in an attempt to stop soldiers from raping local women in China.

And soon there the documents, there is the testimony of Filipino "comfort women," who are still seeking justice and to whom Japanese government and our own session officially failed.

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Pacquiao, GMA to appear at Kapihan show

LIKE OTHER FILIPINOS, I AM HAPPY THAT Manny Pacquiao won his bout against Mexico's Jorge Solis. But it does not mean that we should vote for him for congressman. If I were from General Santos City, I would not vote for him to represent me and my fellow GenSanians in Congress. I'm sure he's a good boss; but it does not mean he would make a good congressman, too.

In the first place, he is not qualified and retired for it. The House of Representatives is not a boxing ring. It is a debating hall. Many issues in this are taken a diving in the ring: congressmen don't solve their problems and solve in our streets in the streets hall. The House is a totally different ball game. His job there will be to make laws, a job for which he is not prepared. He wouldn't even know how to begin his job. The other congressmen would run circles around him. He can't even differentiate rules in congress and rules in a fight. The way to settle them is to choose the right, not fast against them.

In the second place, with him as congressman, Gensan would be poorly represented in Congress. He would be very busy from Congress for many months whenever he is training for a boxing bout. Gensan would be without representation during all that time. Even if he wants to serve his constituents, he cannot. Like a fish out of the water, Manny out of the boxing ring is something less.

During his absences, he would continue to receive the salary and allowances as congressman. That's coming from the taxpayers, a case of the rich stealing from the poor.

If Manny would like to help the Gensan delegation, there are better ways of doing it. In fact, being a congressman is the worst way to do it.

But maybe Manny is considered by the prospect of being called honorable Congressman Pacquiao. But if he were to assume to be there for it, he should know that the word "honorable" doesn't mean a thing when it applies to congressmen—or most politicians, in fact. On the contrary, it means quite the opposite. "Honorable" when applied to politicians should really have the prefix "dis-."

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

Manny is more "honorable" now than if he becomes a congressman. People may not know some but see where he becomes a member of that notorious Lower House. Many people wrongfully believe that the House of Representatives is called the "lower house" because its members belong to a lower class of citizens. I don't think so, but maybe they're right.

Manny will reach some crossroads that people may share and say who wants about him now which he is still a "boss," but if he becomes a congressman, they would be saying bad things about him behind his back and throwing curses at him. The spectators and the politicians may be stumbling all over one another to sing praises to him now, but after several years, they would all be running to the dictionary and the thesaurus to look for the most insulting epithet to apply to him.

In August, the name "Pacman" would suit Manny better when he becomes a congressman.

Manny believes that his current popularity will translate to votes. But people who may love him won't run for him. They don't want to be in the same company as him. They don't want to be in the same company as him. They don't want to spoil him. They want him to remain a boxer, and not become a politician. By not voting for him, he either forfeits residency-until persons him from destroying himself.

But what is happening to Manny now for happiness for him before to others' changes in fortune. They became intellectualized and disrespect themselves. The money they earned from losing they wasted on a lifestyle of excess and vices. They thought there would be no end to the good times—until they suddenly realized that the good times were over. They thought they were smarter than the others who spoke against them. But it turned out they were just as stupid.

Manny should think about that.

And how can his countrymen save Manny from himself? By not voting for him. Vote for him and you destroy him, don't vote for him and you destroy him. But becoming a politician. Perception/colleagues boxing, not to politics. By voting for his opponents, you actually save him not only for boxing but also from his ego.

By the way, Manny Pacquiao not only wants to become a politician, he also wants to be an actor. You will see a Manny Pacquiao at the special 22nd anniversary shows of the Kapihan sa Manila at the evening of April 25 at the Manila Hotel's Tesoro Pavilion. President Macapagal-Arroyo may even personally name a number for senatorial candidates the whole line and PSE declaring their votes.

How many people love in Luzon have seen Lucel in person? Very few. Well, you will see him, and those of the Kapihan show. He has really used his antecedents.

And I think the Intellectuals has advised President Arroyo to watch the show because he, too, confirmed his attendance. And it seems certain that Cabayo Hinatuan and Boy Morales would be among those in their detention cells to be at the show. Plus the Kapihan would provide that rare chance to have Sen. Lito Lapid and Mikael Mayo hair-bang together. They said they would both be there. So did Chavit Singson. But wounds from the bulletproof vest (not fully healed, and Ping Lacson and Lance Gaerlan.

Of course, almost all the other senatorial candidates will be there, because there will be media people covering the theme and segments. Let's see whom they will be the Kapihan's mock elections eventually win the mid-elections.

See you there on Monday. You will not only have an extraordinarily good time, you also get to vote for your favorite candidates.

Again, the 'wasted vote'

THE LAST TIME I SPOKE WITH THE RADIO-TV-cable commentator, they were saying that having parents decide for their children is unfair to them. Independently of whether they actually target it to the Senate or not, it's true, the Pro Senatorial several occasions, no good thing really goes to waste. Small things are sweeping factors to great things. There are circumstances in what makes historic things happen.

But we still hoping for a miracle to happen for the result of this senatory to be outside by light like final of Senate and answer to another. The only reason I oppose these [name] from a couple of arguments I myself have heard from friends over the past month or so. One, let's face it, the political leaders in this country are such that the voters will vote for the wrong candidates—and vote Opposition candidates are by default to the contrary. And, two, the notion that there are therefore likely to be wasted, might as well [illegible] as those who stand a better chance.

I've heard the exact same arguments raised before against candidates who never completely [illegible] mysterious but who were not as popular as their beaten friends. And I've written many columns in answer those objections. Two of them in particular, "The better vote," and "The wasted vote." The reasoning here is the same, and point: here cannot things can never be sufficiently belabored.

Yes, we do need to see political realities. But doing so does not mean we should resign ourselves to the status quo. Because [name] have to have in her race options when faced with a harsh reality, such as the country's lack of political maturity. We can weigh considering it it, or we can try to change it. We can perpetuate it or we can try to purge it. We can make it worse or we can make it better.

We can say, "Well, there's nothing I can do about it, I might as well do as everybody does." Or we can say, "This is unacceptable, I must do something about it. Maybe my one voice is not loud enough, but it will be as if it finds an echo in the voices of others. Maybe the only vote is

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

not deafening enough, but it will be as if it opens the floor of others. But I do not count my voice mute, and I will perpetuate the silence. I do not fight the fear that I will disappear in the dark. I do not try to make things worse, and I will make things worse."

Events do not become known by thinking, "I will do the heroic thing." Heroic become heroic by enduring, "I will do the right thing." The right time, name, because because doing the right thing is the hardest thing of all. You don't always have to do for your principles, you can always live for them. The second is often more heroic than the first—it's more heroic than sacrifice, you're always been willing to die for democracy, it's time we started being willing to live for it.

I do not buy the notion of the "wasted vote." The only wasted vote I can see is the one you don't cast. Or you cast for one you don't believe in only because you think he or she has a chance to win. That is boundless nonsense, not more because it stands in stark contradiction to democracy. To this day, I do not regret not having voted for Erap in 1998. The only thing I do not regret is that I wasted my vote. I did not cast it for Erap because I thought he would win. If there was any "wasted vote," it was the one that went to Erap. That is as we see just because he never got to finish his term but because people voted for him purely because "he was going to win anyway" whatever they did. People who do not want to oppose like Erap by voting for a "weak candidate" are on a straight path to it.

Correspondingly, the wasted vote is the one you won't vote for because you think he or she is losing because "he is not going to win anyway." That is a self-fulfilling prophecy guaranteeing doom—and not just for your candidate. The only thing worse than being intelligent-minded is being stupid about it. Or worse, ignoring you do and abdicating it. The vote is a great power, and it is something we hold in our hands. The enemy of candidates is our silences in the main, it is we have to rise above the fear of a candidate's loss or harassment, it is decided by us. We do not vote for candidates, they do not win. We vote for candidates, they win.

Even if the candidate you believe in is not a popular candidate, it's not "wasting" your vote if you're doing it for the candidate, it is another thing you do for yourself. Or to yourself. Elections are a test of character, but it is not just a test of character for the candidates, it is a test of character for the voters, too. It's not just the candidate who's on trial in elections, it is you, too. When you vote, you do not just declare the kind of life you want for the nation, you declare what kind of life you want for yourself. You can choose to live the life of a lemming and—when yourself off a cliff because everybody is doing so or the life of a human being and act as rational and conscious self-interest.

As the end of the day, you do not just have to live with the candidate you inflicted on the nation, you have to live with yourself and the wound you inflicted on yourself. We can't be free to yourself, you can't be true to the nation. Stop rationalizing about this country going nowhere. There is no way it can go nowhere if the candidate you believe in fit to run this country, whether he wins or lost. You do not vote when you vote a fool or a rascal to office because he or she is the "strong candidate," you know—even if he or she wins. Abuse all arises for or the wins. And you know how when you vote for a candidate in your conscience wins, you win—even if he or she loses. Above all if he or she loses it is but the beginning of struggle.

The "wasted vote" is a stupid concept. You stop worrying about it, you're wasting your time, your energy and your life.

Buy and sell

COMMENTARY

Bishop Francisco F. Claver, S.J.
John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

Family dynasties, in the light of the way we play politics, are nothing but a hoarding in one family of political power

WHEN OUR VILLAGE PHILOSOPHER, A wizened Bisaya (grass of surrenade age, kissed a few weeks ago that the government was going to shell out P40 per day to each people (according to a report in one of the papers), he remarked: "Is that the new way of buying votes?"

A younger version of our philosopher immediately piped in: "Bisay! It's the same old way of buying votes. Hands for police protection, hands for economic or television the power to of bought votes."

Reviving more exchange, an image from the last election in 2004 came to mind: bundles of attractive so-old women put to work for a program pilot-ing under on the Bureau Banaue: send to Mount Bila for a "beautification project" of the town government—those socks, paternalistic guilt-tived, would be pushed out of the way the moment a campaign were by to the road. So cold may be the night, so hot the day, so unemployed are we, so, to the present billion-peso appropriation to meet the growing hunger problem of the nation. And all for another end but to buy votes for mendicant government people running for office.

The exchange we are thinking. Hereinto, Philippine style, are probably best described as a time of wondrous buying and selling. And it is true only about the usual practice of candidates buying votes, sworn selling tickets. The minds' process is more complex, more wide-ranging, more intricate, some of it good, most of it bad. And both buying and selling are often done with superior imagination, the likes of which, if applied to our national imagination, could work more miracles than the Chalmers and the Indians seem to be doing in their unprecedented boom of economic gains.

The good bind. When candidates "sell" themselves to voters on the strength of their integrity and platforms of governance as future public servants, and the voters "buy" their candidates on what they perceive as their talents and the campaign magic they project in a kind of mutual selling and buying, for practical now and again by the more principled candidates. And voters.

The bad kinds: When candidates sell a spectrum bake of goods by mount big ones to the usual elected gimmicks: hanging, dancing, magic, and by themselves or vicariously through movie stars and the like, and all the other strange things that actually don't and when voters buy the tawdry things being sold them without much or no regard for the proper techniques of campaign: Under-honesty, that is far more common kind of election buying and selling.

Among the spectrum bake of goods referred to above, I would include "rhetoric" candidates whose main resource for their running for office is near family's "name recall." Some time back the economic area ruined by a relative of a prospective family dynasty: "There is nothing in the Tax Commandments forbidding family dynasties."

Invoking the dictum by The valuable clause of the Ten Commandments is devoted against the idolatry of self. In plain language, selfishness. And if there is anything we Filipinos are only too suspicious about, it is that family dynasties, in the light of the way we play politics, are nothing but a hoarding in one family of political power (and the wealth that comes from the carriage use of power). And that is wrong, because with the family good coming first before the public good. In our Filipino fraternity of values, the selfishness are spread with only concern.

If our election process it a matter piece, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' refusal to name those selling good or bad merchandise is tantamount to simply repeating the old meaning of "Caveat emptor!" (Buyer, beware!) That warning, we have often heard it said, is nothing but a response to the part of the bishops. I rather think it is the other way around. Those who were their votes should wake up the dense by the bishops not to be easily off stopping out.

What the bishops did say was that they were done with it, a simple an inspiring an affirmation of basic intelligence in a people tired of an anywhere! and to respect our freedom in the exercise of our political will. Coming somebody to make our's mind up without much effort on every part of the key way the. But in so we, we have to concede, it is an easy temptation to surrender to our best fifty-confused politics.

Boxing's other faces

MANNY PACQUIAO'S victory last Sunday (early this one week) after another Filipino boxer, Angelito Estrada, was killed by a brain hemorrhage sustained during a boxing match in Thailand, which he was joined against Synergis Chuenglom, are mixed.

Pacquiao's victory might make us forget, too quickly, his match's death. Yet, the Games and Amusements Board has since banned Filipino boxers from going to Thailand and their way of exchange expressed, with buoyant sports columnist Bonk Trinidad writing in words with the title.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"Did they have to send with savage Thailand?" Trinidad repeated a cadence in Thailand. "Saturday night fights featuring hapless Pinoy pugs against mites or established Thai boxers have been regular dinner fare in Bangkok." See only that, Trinidad said, some fights are rigged, with Filipino boxers "selected" to invent losers how a match.

I can believe Trinidad's claims, and will give my reasons shortly. But I do not want to focus, above the need to ask ourselves some tough questions about treating's many faces, other than that of the shoot-to-kill Pacquiao.

Paid gore

Last year, during a visit to Thailand, I picked up a magazine in a road market downtown. The magazine happened to be dog-eared with its pages, and when being me, and it caught my eye because it showed a Thai boxer with a bloodied face, his eyes wide open with pain and with fear. There were blood stains as well in different parts of his body and the Thai magazine were pictured in every shot made it look like it was dripping blood, much like you see in the titles of horror movies. Inside the magazine, there were more photographs of the type, including the boxer on the back page shown during the match taking blows from his opponents.

I thought the magazine and showed it later to Doug Murray, an Indonesian-married ems-reporter who currently lives in Thailand. Doug shook his head sadly and explained that this happens only in the Thai boxing, with people paid to bathe before and receive cash injuries.

I was shocked, having thought of many Thai or Thai boxing as a sport that had become refined through the years. Two years ago, Discovery Channel featured a documentary on many Thai showing how it had become almost an art. I had also read books with detailed descriptions of the rituals and rules governing many Thai, with boxers normally praying before each match.

The magazine I got showed another side to Thai boxing, one of bloodthirsty spectacle with more emphasis on pain and gore.

I was shocked mainly because all that has for blood moved to go against the perception of Thailand as a gentle Buddhist country that endures violence of any kind. But there is a social scientist, I should know better. In many parts of Asia, you will find the gentlest people, overly concerned about maintaining smooth interpersonal relations. Yet, in recent the welfare, there may be disturbing tensions and outbursts of violence.

Many Thais themselves object to the transformation of Thai boxing into a gladiator sport, but acknowledge that it reflects a disturbing aim of the Thai psyche, one that seems eternally eager in the patriotic arena. Thai history has its share of wartime violence even up to fairly recent history (Thais will remember the Thai-Japanese "friendship" of 1976, when Right-wing paramilitary forces lived as a pro-democracy rally near Thammasat University. Officially, 46 people were killed, but the death toll may have been high-er. The brutality came beyond the killings, which unlike unchecked.

And us?

Our savage lick uncomfortable since the way we look on as other cultures and fail to see how we, too, may have a similar "underside" to our cultures. If Thai brutality reverses character Buddhism, we shouldn't forget that we, too, have various of intolerance rises even against Christian compassion.

I'd start with our brutality to animals, from dog-eating to cockfighting to the "killing me softly" way of slaughtering chickens and ducks in parts of the Cordillera, the highlands already known to locals.

I was once traveling with a foreigner out of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and she had to be the one to point out to me the cruelty in the way we treat animals for slaughter. The points were that the Department of Tourism, and apparently we don't think twice about how such photographs drive away tourist than science, tourism and prayers in an overwhelming people.

And you know what? It seems the Thais are kindred spirits in the midst of this cruelty with animals. When police raided a dogfight ring in Angeles, they found Thai trainers who had flown in just for those fights.

All that I've just described gives the context to our love of boxing. We forget that this sport favors many casualties. We forget that fitness to lead wins from a youth boxing champion, and world champ, too. When he died in Thailand, he was only 24. Boxing is a sport for the young, and glory too brief. Last year UP's anthropology department hosted a Japanese sociology student who had first acquired an interest in Filipino boxers because there were a few older ones who went to Japan. He followed their trail back here, to find more of these older boxers, some living in pay glory, but some in squalor.

We forget, too, the power relations behind international boxing. It's not a coincidence that the boxer involve Third World boxers, fighting in a ring in the United States. Here, we have their will bring these fights to China, with their low risk regard to pay to match. We forget that Filipino boxers end up for Thailand, paid even less, because Thailand is richer than we are.

Call me a wimp, but I'm unable to feel jubilation watching two people pummel each other's cringe thinking of Filipinos being battered, and I grieved after seeing the photograph of Thailand's boxer in last month. The opinion described it accurately as a "tragedy," adding to that so many boxers come from impoverished backgrounds, with few options in life for upward social mobility.

I'll add, too, it's the losing impression is being unable to feel sympathy while watching a Filipino emerge victorious from having beaten up a Mexican. Also, the boxers are sometimes crowding with many-mouthed kids for wins, given registration gloves and playful attitudes of mine—a far it's from the mine-riee in Thailand's rigged fights. But just how confident are boxing ever become?

All said, I worry about how the glorification of boxing camps down the road to violence as a way out of poverty, how poor communities have every boxing matches involving children, with crowds cheering them on and placing bets. How boxers are see in explaining to children when a boxer's refusal to continue and glory might entail, and the chances they'll excel in clubs it?

Romance of the underdog

AT LARGE

Elvira Jimenez-David

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT MONEY and money online is an orphan when money has many brothers.

Before his loss against Jorge Solis, Manny Pacquiao was having his fine turns of advance public traction. While many hailed him as the symbol of Filipino pride and prowess, dubbing him "The hardworking boxer" or "The nation's fist," he grew like a watch of negative opinion after he announced that he would be running for public office. Suddenly his academic and even intellectual qualifications were questioned, his every thought—to the "cradle of fascism" between impossible political aim and his boxing career, with either one or both suffering as a consequence of his run at being.

We find for the congressional seat—the lone Sarangani district—Rep. Rodolfo Antonino Canedo surrendered that the prime minister of Pacquiao Sione fight constituted unfair advantage and may have been in violation of the Election Code. But then, standing in his seat is the side of his opponents, at least in their statements, Canedo accused Pacquiao of "using" the boxing fights to gain access to the Commission on Elections to obtain certain information.

Later enough, the congressman was among those cheering on Pacquiao at the Pay-view of the bout in a Cotabato stadium. But was even caught on cam-cheering Pacquiao and predicting his victory over Solis, the match ended.

Indeed, the Philippines cheered when Pacquiao dispatched Solis after eight rounds. And yesterday, he was greeted with a hero's welcome.

I have no doubt Pacquiao and his political opponents were hoping that he will ride this wave of popularity all the way to the House of Representatives. With just about a month to go before the election, having a major boxing win is clearly a strategic ploy that he could very well consider the ultimate one-two punch.

* * *

THIS is why I believe the Comelec acted timely is allowed "Pambansang Kamao" to file his certificate of candidacy when it is very well known he was deep into preparations for a fight that would be broadcast live pay-per-around the country but even abroad.

Sure, Pacquiao like any citizen has the right to run for public office, but the law provides that anyone with a career in entertainment, broadcasting or the media should suspend such activities once the or she files a certificate of candidacy. Pacquiao should have been made to choose which of two callings he preferred to pursue: that of a fighter, or of a candidate. If Pacquiao could have been allowed to continue appearing in movies or television, if newscasters have to disappear from the TV screens the minute they become candidates, then the least we might have expected would be that he got elected. If he seems so willing to flout the rules now that he's just a candidate, how much more absolute would he be once he gets here power?

* * *

THE answer to this point is a number of issues about the "Dan Quixote" candidacies of individuals who are pursuing their quests for public service despite the odds and the overwhelming resistance of their opponents.

Behind our most unique story, Tapulando, announcing on those postings, wonderful why they often exercise the law "in the last minute, with minimal preparation and weak organization."

Consider the way these individuals joined political fanfare—almost by way of impulse—with the way she so called "major" sponsored, Tagorian. to said. Politicians, he noted, intended their candidacies long before they actually filed with the Comelec, getting into the public eye as much as they could and identifying themselves with people and peoples causes, the better to solidify a sympathetic image.

One reason I can see for the seemingly ad hoc nature of "come-as-you-are" candidacies is the time-act resistance of so many "SOP type" to partisan politics, as well as to personal ambition. It appears unseemly to make one's own political ambition too obvious, or to make the necessary preparations for a viable candidacy. Instead, we are rewarded with the presence of the underdog, the hero prevailing against the odds.

* * *

MOST yes, as Tapulando pointed out, the only way over and religious groups, NGOs and organized movements can make their voices heard in the present political system, can make real change happen is to be more national and strategic in their approach to politics.

We compare a merchantman for spending power and candidates' political perspectives and positions, researchers, governance and public service, and then prepare for their candidacies much ahead of time, with special attention to building up a formidable "war chest."

In the United States, for instance, "Gindley's Law" was formulated to explain why it is so hard for women to succeed in politics. "Gindly" stands for "Early Money is Like Yeast," based on the reasoning that a sound funding base attracts more campaign funds, with potential donors convinced that a candidate is a winner. Or, as Jesse Unruh, a late presidency Last Hurrah, Gindly's list has chosen to support Hillary Clinton.

Is it possible to create something like this not just for various candidates, but for progressive candidates and parties? A viable candidacy may not be so crucial, but at least it has a more than even chance of succeeding.

Lost Eden

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THE LATE 19TH CENTURY PHILIPPINE ISSUE as viewed by people of our day, but we are lucky to have visual sources to supplement the available historical text. Diwa Literatus has nothing but text on which to reminisce a given time and place. Without visuals, the reminiscer has to work double time. Previously some published early travel accounts are illustrated with lithographs and engravings.

The earliest pictorial record of Filipinos that we have (and in full color) are the illustrations in the Boxer Codex

Truth behind classroom shortage

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo said last weekend she hopes by ending to extend older Kadiwa lifts to stop likewise be high incidences of hunger on the children' pendrum for "luxuries" such as reading and smoking. Now, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus is blaming the country's high rate of birth as the cause of classroom shortage.

Let's start with the facts. The government, according to a Senate study, should set spending 6 percent of its GDP (Gross Domestic Product) for education; instead it appropriates a measly 3 percent.

The Department of Education has achieved it backs 45,370 classrooms, based on a ratio of 45 students to one classroom. According to the President, the budget is now ready to provide 14,000 classrooms over the year which can answer the lack of classrooms? No, the Depēd still needs 10 per cent 31,370, to boot.

Many schools, four tables are born. It's like every 10 minutes, I'm short of one classroom," Lapus said. Why would Lapus blame the population growth rate as the cause of classroom shortage? Simple. Because he, along with other Duterte typology, has been tasked to cover up their total inability and lack of sincerity to serve this country.

The lack of classrooms did not come from overpopulation. It started when the Arroyo misadministered the national budget (which could have paid for basic social services like education) to follow the dictates of the World Bank and other "gobernezal" foreign lending imperialists.

Apparently, this government must no balk or repeal former President Ferdinand Marcos' Presidential Decree 1177 which provides for the automatic appropriation of excess revenues for debt service, and former President Corazon Aquino's Executive Order 292, which instituted Section 20-A of the Revised Administrative Code of 1987 providing an automatic appropriation for the payment of principal and interest on public debt.

If the government were sincere in addressing the education crisis, it could have done so by not "surrendering" the administration-led House of Representatives with push. It could have done so by not making it appear that the budget for state universities and colleges is P24 billion short of the budget of the Department of Education. Instead, it could have done so by reversing political will to impose a regular debt servicing and start giving the people's welfare.

Unfortunately, it needs more money for inspirational exercises.

—KARLA CHUSHIEN LIM,
vice president for Mindanao,
kabataan Party-List,
kabataan.one@gmail.com

LETTERS

Appalling response

I WAS APPALLED BY AND DISgusted with the way the hostage taking of children by Antonio "Jun" Bucoi was handled and the way the victims' parents have responded to the case.

I take it that what happened was just to get the attention of the media and put the spotlight on the obvious determination of the state of the nation. But putting the children at risk—in hostages, no less—was an insane thing to do.

The end never justifies the means, especially if the latter endangers the lives of children. I express more than the parents of the children.

—LENDY CALUSTE,
lyncMarie@yahoo.com

Wrong opposition thrust

THE RECENT RISE OF THE opposition is to "Pandito" the party in power. It would therefore be wrong for the opposition to have as its primary purpose the overthrow of President Macapagal-Arroyo by impeachment. Will it also attempt to impeach Vice President Noli de Castro if he succeeds the President?

President Arroyo has three more years until her term expires in 2010. To impeach her now will only cause the country more chaos, division, instability and suffering, as she certainly will defend her hold on power.

There are three constituting bases in the coming mid-term elections, the opposition whose principle goal is to unseat the President, the formula troubles hardening to reinstall their idol through another people power; and the administration which will have to "hold the line" against both the opposition and the Davao loyalists.

For country's interminable wrangling is at its lowest ebb. A vote for the opposition and for the Estrada loyalists is a vote for three more years of chaos, division and hardship for our country.

The opposition vote would inevitably threaten while the Estrada vote would be a vote for those who register rallies and people power attempts. The perceptive voter can see through the hidden agenda of the opposition and the Estrada loyalists.

The conscientious Filipinos must join hands to allow the Arroyo administration to regain, during to last three years in power, the economy's image as the most corrupt in Asia. Acting together, we can all help Arroyo improve the economy by helping our country weather these difficult and trying times.

—FRANCISCO GUIANA,
counselor-at-law,
Panta[Ma]ra Advocates,
11 Charlie[ville] St.,
White Plains, Quezon City

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WESTERN UNION

Not an architect

I BOOK TO THE FUTURE ARTICLE TITLED "Name pinned" (Inquirer, 3/14/07) which claimed that Architect Ed Calma was "arrested." It was the second Sunday in a row that the Inquirer had featured Calma and his "woes," a "The first time was on Feb. 25.

We believe it is a matter of public safety and interest to tell the public that the roster of 'full' carries Gregorio Calma Ed Calma does not appear in the registry books of the Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (PRBoA). The banks remain the names of those duly authorized to practice architecture in the Philippines. In other words, Calma has been "practicing" without the requisite Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card from the PRBoA and the Professional Regulation Commission. The use of the title "Architect" is regulated by RA 9246. (The "Architecture Act of 2004") and may be used only by duly registered and licensed architects.

Let the public be told as well that Calma's enrollment "practice" announcement by places his name in the honorable positions and in a clear affront to the 24,000 or so registered architects who took great pains to finish the difficult architectural licensure examinations.

Apparently, he is now the object of an official investigation by the Philippine government for multiple counts of illegal architectural practice and/or of multiple violations of law.

—GERARDO S. ALI,
chair, Professional Regulatory
Board of Architecture (PRBoA)

Embarrassing diplomats

I READ WITH CHAGRIN AND TWO WITH amusement the March 26 column of Ramon J. Farolan—ex-Ambassador Louis L. Beja JUS ex-organization ex-vice president of the Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) of the United Nations.

The column came in the wake of an earlier press release—also negative—from the Philippine Mission. Both pieces were an attempt at misinformation and, apparently, leaks with malice.

In an interview with Karmina Constantino of The Filipino Channel, United States, Beja made it clear that:

1. The arrangement for Ambassador Enrico Galzona of Japan to take over the secretariatship of Ecosoc was a strategy to allow the Philippines to keep the position. There other Asian members of Ecosoc wanted it. As Galzona said in the Mindanao press release, he was doing the Philippines a favor by accepting the arrangement.

2. Beja was unanimously elected to the Ecosoc on his own, based on his track record, without instructions and support from the Department of Foreign Affairs. The cultivate of the 150 lands upon the record of the candidates for the position and not by country by representative.

3. The position of vice president in the Ecosoc cannot be "reserved" for any country. This is why it could not be reserved for Junior Alfaro Dagdag even if he was succeeding Beja. Soriano, who was once an ambassador himself, should know this. It was incentive for him to maintain that the position was reserved for the Philippines and that Beja owned it as his own property.

4. When Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo humbly revealed Beja as reader room for Soriano, he did not only denigrate the position via-a-vis the ex-presidential at the presidency of the Ecosoc. The deputy permanent representative is a secretary in his terms and Soriano was still in the throes of a domestic controversy over his appointment. It would have been improper for Beja to abandon his position, leave a blanks in Ecosoc for Asia's representativity and opportunity to manipulate distribution of duty.

Soriano suggested an investigation. Fine. The investigation should start with whomever authorized the gathering of Beja's letters of resignation to the Philippine Mission. Leaking of final documents without clearance is infidelity to the custody of such documents and is a crime under the Philippine Penal Code.

It is disappointing that Romulo, Farolan and Soriano, all seasoned in the art of diplomacy, cannot live up to their calling as "diplomats."

Let me say there, Farolan, a distinguished military man. If an officer of any rank indicted official documents to the public without clearance, that officer would be subject to court martial.

It is evident seeing enough that the issue surrounding Soriano's appointment has placed our country in a diplomatic pothole right at the UN. Allowing the rancor roiled up by the controversy on Soriano upends—the country's reputation only causes more embarrassment.

—ALEXANDER S. TEY JR.,
a lawyer and a gentleman,
lexlaw@aol.com

Portrait of mass killer: It's not clear what snaps

CHICAGO—IT'S THE KIND OF CRIME that defies comprehension: An angry man with a gun walks into a school and picks his victims at random.

He is not old. Killers carefully stalking his prey is now comparatively rare, dominating the family-for-hall section.

He kills, seemingly, without shame or reason and then turns the gun on himself.

Few details have emerged about the man who killed at least 32 people at Virginia Tech University in the bloodiest school shooting in US history on Monday.

Students described the killer as "basic-looking," wearing a loose-fitting rape shirt with a black vest over it, and carrying an ordinary gun bag.

They said he repeatedly fired on crowding students and staff in an attempt to kill as many people as possible. Police recovered two weapons and said dozen in the building had been chained to inside

Champ flies first class, another in economy

CHAMPIONS: The still undefeated World Boxing Council International super bantamweight champ Pacquiao and WBC youth super bantamweight champ Bernabe Concepcion raise the arms of President Arroyo during their courtesy call at the Palace shortly after the champs' arrival early Tuesday morning. JOY NOVO

From page A1

ring idol and a promising young fighter.

As ring idol Manny Pacquiao and his wife Jinkee flew first class on Philippine Airlines' Flight PR115, Bernabe Concepcion, who resigned a tearful boxing title on Sunday, sat through the 16-hour flight from Los Angeles to Manila in economy class.

Pacquiao's convoy had already left for the Manila Hotel when Concepcion, the World Boxing Council youth super bantamweight champ, emerged from the arrival gallery at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Centennial Terminal 2 little past 5 a.m. yesterday.

He was left behind as it took time for him to step out of the aircraft, which touched down at 4:30 a.m. With him in the cabin were other members of Pacquiao's management staff.

"We were in the rear part of the plane and there were many people. That's why we can't slip past them," said Concepcion, who flew on Alphonse Soulet Dan while Pacquiao had received from the waiting media.

Concepcion, 19, a native of Vigo, Camarines, fought in the undercard of the bout between Pacquiao and Mexican Jorge Solis at the Mandalena in Texas.

Unanimous decision

By a unanimous decision, the Bicolano succeeded in defending his belt against American Benjamin Flores.

Later, 28-year-old Pacquiao knocked out Solis, a previously undefeated fighter.

"I was supposed to take a flight tomorrow but Manny told his manager me to go with him. He wants us to be together [in the homecoming] because that's an added expression for me. So we just hastened avoiding the flight," Concepcion said.

It was not clear whether the flight's last seven first or first class cabins had no more space for him, but Concepcion said it was his promoter, Top Rank, that booked him and Pacquiao on the flight that left Los Angeles on Sunday night.

Asked if he would have been given a similar seat had he taken the next day's flight, Concepcion said "maybe."

Airport security chief Angel Natividad, who was among the airport officials who arranged the welcome for the champs, said he had to remind the airport public affairs staff about Concepcion when he was not seen following Pacquiao.

The Pacquiao couple was also driven in front of the arrival gallery at 4:30 a.m. and welcomed by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Atienza and the Airport Police Department's assistance force.

No entourage, relatives

The airmen had passed before Concepcion could follow Pacquiao's group. No entourage, no relatives, no security. Just his bare carry-on luggage.

Incidentally, the young boxer hopes to be like Pacquiao someday as he acknowledges that there's still a lot he has to learn.

"I dream of also becoming a star boxer, if I get lucky. Dream ... Maybe, I am not even half [of what] Manny [has achieved]. I will just work hard," the modest boxer told reporters.

Atienza, who mounted Concepcion as the Press Freedom Lounge, said the boxer had planned to take a ride on the Pacquiao motorcade, all for while carrying the $1,000 watch prize he won in Texas.

He was spared from culminating when the airport authority offered one of its patrol cars to take Concepcion to the Manila Hotel, where he was scheduled to rendezvous with Pacquiao's group.

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What Drives You CALTEX

Metro turns ...

From page A1

one has sense in Filipino at the website www.manny pacquiao.ph. "It's now time for us to help him by campaigning and voting for him. God bless, #manny! I know you will win because you're smarter and God-fearing."

Some of the bloggers said Pacquiao's heart was solely meant to help the poor.

Others were unconvinced. (See related story on Page A10).

"I'm Bicol, but I will not vote for him," wrote one blogger. "... I can even put a banner on my front saying that I'm a Pacman fan I will not vote for him."

One blogger appeared to be willing to accept Pacquiao as a governor or mayor, but never as a congressman.

Pacquiao told reporters he was determined more than ever to push for a congressional seat and run anytime in "momentarily set aside boxing ... [and] concentrate on a different battle" come May 14.

Asked who was a tougher opponent between Solis and Clottey, Pacquiao said: "Regarding my political fight, it's the people who sell alcohol and shabu ... the leader who can give a program to our districts."

In a 30-minute closed-door meeting, Mrs Arroyo congratulated both Pacquiao and World Boxing Council youth super bantamweight champion Bernabe Concepcion for their victories in Texas.

She complimented Pacquiao's ring feat in her husband's successful battle against his debilitating aneurysm hours ahead.

"Like all Filipinos, Pacquiao's victory raised the morale of his friend, Atty. Mike [Arroyo]. Friends close to the First Family continue to pray and hope that the boxer's victory is a fitting metaphor for Atty. Mike's own fight for a speedy recovery and good health," she said.

Mrs Arroyo gave the two boxers an undisclosed amount as rewards.

Bicolandia turned Manila into a virtual "Manny La" yesterday as thousands of cheers braved the heat and poured into the streets to get a glimpse of their idol.

Kids on the streets joined in singing Pacquiao's signature song, "Lahat Ito, Lahat Ito," which literally means a vehicle in front of the downtowning truck carrying the champion—proving that "Manny's magic" was everywhere.

Hordes were warned furiously to get their pictures taken while motorcade remained "[dead slow]."

The 20-year-old boxing king, in a long-sleeved pink polo and khaki pants, waved and smiled from the truck throughout the parading motorcade, without taking a seat in rest lunch.

He was only seen guarding bottled water from time to time. Later, an umbrella opened up over his head.

The convoy notoriously, however, also looked like an electoral campaign as candidates for councilors and congressmen squeezed themselves in the lorry truck, which already had Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, his son and mayoral candidate Ali, and Vice Mayor Isa Bagatsing on it raised platform.

Employees left their work to participate their families to see Pacquiao as the motorcade rolled off from the Manila City Hall, to Chinatown, to the statue of Tondo, and other districts before ending at the Manila Zoo.

The crowds in some places, particularly in commercial areas, were visibly smaller compared to those that greeted Pacquiao in November after he vanquished Mexico's Erik Morales in the United States.

"It's because students who, in this part, were summoned by the city government to join in welcoming Pacquiao, were on vacation," one City Hall employee told the Inquirer.

In the slums of Tondo, people stood on rooftops, using expensive digital cameras and barely came to take pictures of the superstar.

Pacquiao first arrived around 4:30 a.m.

He was accompanied by his court of handlers wearing blue baseball caps emblazoned with the sign: "Human Compassion."

The Central Luzon city government has proposed a hero's welcome, including a motorcade, for Pacquiao for the champion's camp said they had their own plans.

Pacquiao's adviser Franklin Gacal Jr. said the champion would ride not on the city government's float but on his own, which was prepared by his supporters. *With a report from Tarra Quismundo and Agatha Z. Jurado, Inquirer Mindanao*

Across the NATION

UP Baguio graduates first summa cum laude

By the Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE LONE UP graduating with honors from Baguio City, which has been ranked in top five 35 ranked academic centers.

On Friday, April 20, the 20-year-old journalism major, which is in the head of Class of 2007 of the University of the Philippines Baguio, which will confer on him summa cum laude honors, the first for the 30-year-old institution since registration only.

Only a week ago, the University Council, the academic body that approves candidates for graduation, decided not to give Cruz the highest scholastic honors despite his obtaining a weighted grade of 1.31 in all courses in the Bachelor of Arts in Communication program, because of a technicality.

Cruz had underloaded in the first semester of the school year and had re-enrolled in the third semester, to which he earlier received an "incomplete" grade.

The university rules disallow the graduation with honors of students who have enrolled in less than 75 units of academic courses.

But on Tuesday, the council, deliberating on the appeal of Cruz's siblings, reversed itself and approved the summa cum laude honors to Cruz and the cum laude honors to the other BA Communication and BA Language and Literature students.

"I was speechless," said Cruz, who received the news while he was taking lunch in a Tarlac mall.

On a bus to Baguio from Subic City, where he had participated in a debate contest as a member of the UP Baguio Debate Society, he called his mother, Nancy.

"I was shouting and shouting," the mother, a coach teacher at the Brent International school here, said when she learned about it from her son.

Mother and son had the discipline since the rejection of Cruz's graduation with honors last week.

During the council deliberations on Cruz's appeal, UP Baguio Chancellor Priscilla Maranan said she remembered the body to "make sure the decisions we made were a good one to both the faculty and the students."

"(We learn to make sure) justice is served and that we do not deny anyone what is due him but based on a technicality alone," she told the journal composed of professors.

The five other students whose graduation with honors was also approved by the council were Jenel Anthony Sumera (1.71), and Gisela Mae Rabara (1.71), both in the BA Communication program, and Jennifer Marie Tamayo (1.69), Abigail Bernadette Serrano (1.69), and Jolene Bagnol (1.72), all in BA language and Literature program.

All five faced the same problem as Cruz's: being underloaded and having to enrolled in the three courses.

PNP nixes NPA abduction

POLICE DIDN'T FIND EVIDENCE LINKING COMMUNIST guerrillas to the disappearance of a US Peace Corps volunteer, saying the woman may have fallen off a cliff while hiking alone more than a week ago.

Director General Oscar Calderon, Philippine National Police chief, said there was no indication that John Campbell, 40, from Pueblo, Virginia, was abducted by lawless elements or the communist New People's Army "because the area has been cleared of insurgents."

"We suspect she may have fallen off a cliff," he said.

He said he has deployed 32 members of the Special Action Force who are familiar with the area and can speak the local language. The group, nonetheless, is communicating and cooperating with a trained in mountain in rough terrain, including rappelling down ravines and cliffs.

The military also deployed a canine tracking team to the village of Sinait, in Bataraz town in Ifugao province, where Campbell was last seen April 6, army Maj. Gen. Rodrigo Maclang said.

Officials promised 10 Peace Corps Director Ronald Tschetter and Sheila Crowley will be on hand to assist the Campbell.

Tschetter flew to Ifugao on Tuesday over flood and later drove to the area, about 260 km north of Manila. Ifugao provincial police chief Senior Supt. Pedro Cunte said by telephone.

"Now they have an idea of how difficult the search operation is," Cunte said, referring to the deep ravines and forests in the area.

Cunte said Campbell, wearing blue denim jeans, a black shirt and a khaki vest last seen buying sodas from a local store.

He was only wearing sandals and had bought a bus ticket to return to Manila by April 9, indicating she did not plan on extending her stay or making a long hike to a spot to view Mount Himlan's famed mossy rice terraces, he said.

The US Embassy is offering a $10,000 reward for information on Campbell, spokesman Maureen Quinchop said.

Maclang said there is only a small military presence in the area because the communist insurgency is not a major concern.

The whole province in the Philippines' Cordillera mountain region has just one station in urban or commercial center.

Campbell is one of 127 Peace Corps volunteers currently in the Philippines. She has been teaching English at the Divine Word College in Abay province's Legazpi City southeast of Manila, since October 2006. She previously taught at a public school in Bataan in nearby Zambales province, said Brian Dolan, assistant dean of Center World College of Liberal Arts.

In 1990, the NPA seized Peace Corps volunteer Timothy Sweeney and held him for 56 days before releasing him unharmed.

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Re-Bidding for BCDA's Outsourcing of the Operation and Maintenance of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) from a Single Service Provider

1. The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) intends to bid out the Contract for ***the BCDA's Outsourcing of the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) from a Single Service Provider*** (the "Contract") An Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in the amount equal to 12.3% of the 15-year Projected Toll Revenues has been set aside to cover payments for the purpose. The Contract particularly involves the provision of the following support services: Toll Collection; Traffic Management; Roadway Maintenance; General Administration; and Greening and Landscaping. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

2. BCDA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from other potential bidders to apply for eligibility. Interested firms may submit either in person, through mail or facsimile. Their LOIs on 18 to 20 April 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address given below and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Pesos: Twenty-five Thousand only (PhP25,000.00). Application for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on 30 April 2007, until 12:00 noon at the BCDA Corporate Center. Proponents are invited to witness the opening of the eligibility Documents on 30 April 2007, 1:30 p.m. at the BCDA Corporate Center.

Bases Conversion and Development Authority
BCDA Corporate Center
2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street
Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City
Taguig City, Metro Manila

3. A Prequalification Conference among interested proponents is tentatively set on 23 April 2007, 10:00 a.m., at the BCDA Corporate Center. The BCDA Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) shall close up this prospective bidders from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria.

4. Interested firms may obtain further information from:

VICTOR V. ZABLAN
Chairman, Special Bids and Awards Committee for SCTEP
Bases Conversion and Development Authority
2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street
Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, 1634
Taguig City, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 816-6886 loc. 110
Website Address: www.bcda.gov.ph

or contact Ms. Bambie L. Arolal at telephone number 816-6888 loc. 124, facsimile number 816-1543, or email address blarolal@bcda.gov.ph.

5. The BCDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process or not award the contract, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **VICTOR V. ZABLAN**
Chairman, SBAC for SCTEP

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
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INVITATION TO BID

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

An educational 'Camelot' in Nueva Ecija

Established as a farm school in 1907, the CLSU has become a model university

By Arnedine Roque
Science City of Muñoz

ELEVATING FARMING TO A SCIENCE AND PROfession at a time when many Filipinos were drawn toward white collar jobs and the push for the young was to finish law, medicine, engineering or education was the goal of the founders of a farm school in Nueva Ecija in the early 1900s.

But various problems met the Central Luzon Agricultural School (CLAS) when it was established on April 12, 1907.

Significant of these was the decision of its first enrollees who experienced a storm and later the onslaught of malaria and dysentery.

Officials of the then Bureau of Agriculture circumnavigated the closure of the school and suggested that the CLAS be designated as an experiment station.

But the Bureau of Education rescued the school when it took responsibility for its development.

The CLAS, in just a few years, implemented programs, projects and activities that became the toast of the country.

In later years, CLAS was converted into a college (Central Luzon Agricultural College) and then became the Central Luzon State University (CLSU).

CLSU celebrated its centenary on April 12. The celebrations echoed its glorious past and laid the groundwork for its future as one of the top academic institutions in the country.

Student-farmer

Irene T. M. Thompson, the institution's fourth chief executive in Muñoz, who thought of establishing a farm school in the province.

He brought the idea to then Governor Eleuterio Martinez, who asked the provincial board to pass a resolution requesting Governor General James Smith to declare a portion of the public agricultural land in the province as site of the school.

Smith reserved 688 hectares for the school site in the barrio of Muñoz in San Jose de Cuimba, Nueva Ecija. (Muñoz later became a town and the Science City of Muñoz. Its mother town, San Jose de Cuimba, is now called Gapan.)

In its infancy, the school accepted boys in the intermediate grades. Their selection was based more on their ability to work in the fields and their industry rather than on their intellectual capacity. The initial test was to carry a cross (30 kilograms) of palay (unhusked rice) up to a certain distance.

By 1913, the school had 180 students who came from the five provinces, Cagayan, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Pampanga and from the Visayas and Mindanao.

Superintendent Edgar Wee, head of the school from 1913 to 1916, instituted groundbreaking programs and projects that pushed the school onto the public consciousness.

The students, who lived in the school's dormitories, were trained to do all kinds of work.

When not inside the classrooms, they engaged in machinery and carpentry work, in the cooperative store, student bank, post office, and mess hall, eateries. Meals are served on time.

They are in the mess hall that was manned by students with titles such as "Mess Sergeants," "Mess Corporals," "Mess Guards," "Cooks, Police," "Waiter," and "Baker." The students earned fees according to their duties.

They undertook training in nursing and first aid. They also became part-time teachers in the elementary schools in the town proper.

Citizenship training was also a prominent interest. The campus, which was also a residential community, became a "little republic" governed by a president, vice president and members of the council. It had a judge, student police and even a sanitary inspector.

The school officials upheld strict supervision, decision, punishment and reward control not by official heads of the "little republic."

But the cornerstone in the school's programs was the independent "student-farmer" scheme. In it, the students were paired, given farm tools, a caribou, one and a farm co-adviser. They had to live and work in the farm, with chaperon as their mentors.

Then, they attended classes half of the day and worked in their field and pond the rest of the day. It was not uncommon, based on newspaper accounts at that time, to see students working in the field "unmindful of the rain clubbing by."

They were given shares in their harvest, which was three to five times more than the national average yield. The income they got was placed in their savings account in the school's bank.

Girls were admitted starting 1946.

Breakthrough

The farm school became a college in 1952 and became a boon to agricultural education as it was also mandated to train teachers in the country's public schools for professional growth in agricultural education.

In 1978, CLAS became a university. More success—the institute of animation, veterinary medicine and biology—were offered. It also strengthened its graduate programs.

CLSU scored breakthrough and outstanding innovative projects in various rural and farmers culture and production, surmounting the cultivation of worms to break down wastes, cage culture of tilapia, rice-fish culture, farm of the future project, sericulture and mushroom (mushroom cultivation), among others. It emerged as place an agricultural province program that "plots and lots of pesos to income every year."

The Commission on Higher Education, in one of the issues of its newsletter, called CLSU as an "educational Camelot" which it is "model of and an inspiration for all educational institutions in the country."

THE FARM SCHOOL now known as the Central Luzon State University, one of the country's top educational institutions, is celebrating its centennial this year

EMETERIO Arabes, the first Filipino superintendent of CLAS (now CLSU)

'Mang Rod' gets diploma

IT WAS 62 YEARS AGO WHEN HORMIGO Castrodio stopped out of school, after earning a certificate for completing a two-year associate course in agricultural education. But Castrodio, now 74, yearned to pursue his dream to get a formal education and not stop until he received a college diploma.

On April 10, [illegible] dream [illegible] was fulfilled as Castrodio, "Mang Rod" to his friends, received his diploma from the Central Luzon State University for the degree of Bachelor of Science in agricultural education.

"It has always been my recurring dream, even in my advanced age, to earn a degree. Finally, I got it," said Castrodio, who became the oldest bachelor's degree graduate of the 100-year-old CLSU in the Science City of Muñoz.

Castrodio's final requirement for graduation was a paper on commercial hog breeding and fattening. His paper presented the dwindling of livestock production from the level of giant corporate enterprises to community and family farms.

He dedicated his final paper to his granddaughter, Erica, "who prodded me on for the rare privilege of [illegible] receiving [illegible] diploma."

Soon after completing his two-year associate course in 1951, Castrodio, a native of Placer, Surigao del Norte, served in the Provincial Assistance for Community Development office in his province. He became a [illegible] management worker in Pantukan before he was tapped as an agricultural cooperative and rural development officer in Nueva Ecija.

At present, he is the project officer of the General Luna Rural Development Center and Tree Farm in Llanera town. The center is engaged in, among other things, conducting agricultural [illegible] training programs for dependents of overseas Filipino workers.

Castrodio earned his diploma through CLSU's Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP), which allows students to earn degrees by giving equivalent academic credits to their actual work experiences.

After having his credentials evaluated, he took 12 units of agriculture-[illegible] subjects. He also conducted farm demonstrations, and presented and defended technical papers discussing his ideas and documenting his various projects and activities.

Jhon Bontigao Jr.

CUSTODIO (center) during the on-site visit at ETEEAP panel of examiners at Llanera, Nueva Ecija.

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Right-of-way problems derail SCTEx schedule

ORDINARY DAY

Life has not yet returned to normal for Supertyphoon "Reming" victims who lost their homes. They have been staying in different evacuation centers in Albay, like this one in Tiga Elementary School.

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Officials of a Japanese consortium building the Pampanga-Tarlac section of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway have asked the Bases Conversion Development Authority to grant them 427 more days to finish the project due mainly to right-of-way problems.

The request was made by the Hanshin-Taisei-Nippon Steel (HTN) Joint Venture on March 20, cited "a critical delay" in its work due mainly due to right-of-way problems, which was also the basis of another Japanese contractor to ask for 383-day extension on the road's Subase-Dampalit stretch.

The BCDA and the HTN made the request on the same day.

'Critical delay'

In the request, project manager Kunio Hanata told the project's consultants that "despite our best endeavours, circumstances beyond our responsibility and control have arisen that caused a critical delay to the completion of the work."

"As such we have no other alternative but to exercise our right under the contract to claim for an extension," Hanata said.

He referred to the 422 days of delay incurred at the Clark interchange "due to late giving of site possession there."

HTN explained its basis: "BCDA's failure to comply with its contractual obligations to give HTN the right of access to and possession of the whole site is a major breach of contract."

"As a result, HTN has reasonable grounds to the progress of the work having HTN open to the risk of liquidated damages. It is no doubt unreasonable to expect HTN to pay liquidated damages for not completing the work on time due to the late giving of the right of access to and possession of site by BCDA," it added.

But BCDA president Nestor Abaya said HTN has withdrawn the request and the deadline extension sought by the consortium was now "moot and academic."

Robert Gorlewin, SCTEx project manager for operational support, said 10.9Km work was already 96 percent completed as of March.

Joint venture

Except for stating that HTN would apply "single-minded dedication to complete the job," Abaya did not say how the joint venture would timely catch up with the work.

Abaya said the HTN committed no moves in Aug. 18, 2007 deadline when he met its officials last week.

In a statement, Abaya said HTN general manager Makoto Wakida, Hitachi and Hanshin general manager for international division Wayne Gore gave this commitment when they paid him a courtesy call on April 13.

Hanta Row in Four Seasons's head office in Tokyo, Japan, to join the official advise, he said.

"The acceptance of the top executive [of HTN] came as a relief of fresh wind, coming as it did at a time when the Japanese contractor of Package 2 ... had requested an extension of its project completion deadline for another 300 days," Abaya said.

An HTN official did not return an hour-to-call seeking confirmation on whether it really dropped its request for a time extension and what steps were being done on Bataan its 44.4km part of the road on time.

The BCDA board of directors granted the other contractor, the Kajima-Obayashi JV, Engineering-Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (KOJM) Joint Venture to ask to 6 Nov. 30, 2007 deadline.

The project consultants—the Pacific Consultants International, Katahira and Engineers International and Nippon Koei Co. Ltd.—advised BCDA, which rejected incurring 2,408 days of delay to take measures to arrest the lag, noting that to 69 percent accomplishment rate as of March 31 were 30 percent behind work schedule. Its work covers the 50-km segment of the 94-km, four-lane toll road. Dennis Orejas, inquirer Central Luzon

Homeless see usefulness of illegal campaign posters

LUCENA CITY—NO STRIPS SEEN yet (Election) given the go-signal to demolish the illegal posters of candidates, my neighbors will volunteer to do the job. The poor tenant does not need to pay us. We will offer our services for free in any condition—whatever materials we retrieve will be given to us," he said.

Illegal campaign posters

He said most of the stores in his neighborhood had already surveyed the locations of "double" or illegal campaign posters in the city and along the Maharlika Highway.

"We've already identified and marked our respective targets. Huge campaigns are the prized catch. These have a lot of ... re—roofing materials, walls and even charging mat," Dizon said.

Candidates' election propaganda materials are limited to the Comelec common poster areas.

Comelec Resolution 7752 prohibits the posting of campaign materials in public places such as ...erways, bridges, public structure or buildings, trees, electric posts or wires, schools, churches, state thoroughfares, and the like."

However, campaign materials of national and local candidates still cluttered different public areas such as bridges, electric lamp posts and other areas not authorized by the poll body.

Campaign materials

Even ones inside the Quezon Provincial Park in the boundary of Mayorsan and Dalahan towns were not spared by the ones to get campaign workers of candidates in front of the trees were seen passed and nailed with electrical campaign materials.

Helena Millanate, an employee of the Comelec provincial office, said workers have started removing illegal campaign posters last week after receiving the memorandum from Comelec national officials.

"The removal of illegal campaign posters is continuous and ongoing," he said over the phone.

However, Quezon police chief Senior Supt. Victorio Cavagnat Jr. said police have yet to receive the order from local poll officials.

"We're still covering our order from the Comelec to date Operation Baklas," he said.

Lee Sacrabin, the Comelec started to exercise supervisory powers over the Philippine National Police.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos has urged policemen and barangay officials to prevent the illegal posting of campaign materials outside Comelec-identified common poster areas.

The Comelec has also deputized the Department of Public Works and Highways to remove all illegal posters and illegally posted campaign materials throughout the country.

It said it would welcome civilians' help in removing the campaign materials permitted this year under Comelec supervision.

National elections will be held on May 14 for 250 seats in the House of Representatives, 12 Senate seats, and more than 17,000 public officials, including governors and mayors. *Jeffy Mullet Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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SUA JUAN, Yenny Erik
SANTIAGO, Jocelyn R.
SERRANO, JR., Leandro M.
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TADENA, Angelyn A.
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TOLENTINO, Jo Marie C.
URBANO-ARRAIS, Trina T.
VALDEZ, Ferdinand B.
VERNIDA, Celestino C.
VILLAR, Rachel A.
YULADIS, Christian G.

A Testimonial Dinner will be tendered by the MLQU administration and Faculty of the School of Law, in honor of the successful examinees on April 25, 2007 (Wed.) at 7:00 p.m. Jade Vine Restaurant, U.N. Avenue Manila.

VOLUNTEERISM

At least 20 employees of the Papa-Rapa Processing (PRPI) and Papa-Rapa Mining (PRPM) do construction jobs for (General Kalinga's) "1 Million Bayani" project from April 9-11 by helping build houses for victims of Supertyphoon Reming and wind clubs from Mayon Volcano. Employees of the two firms plan to build 1,000 GI houses in Albay.

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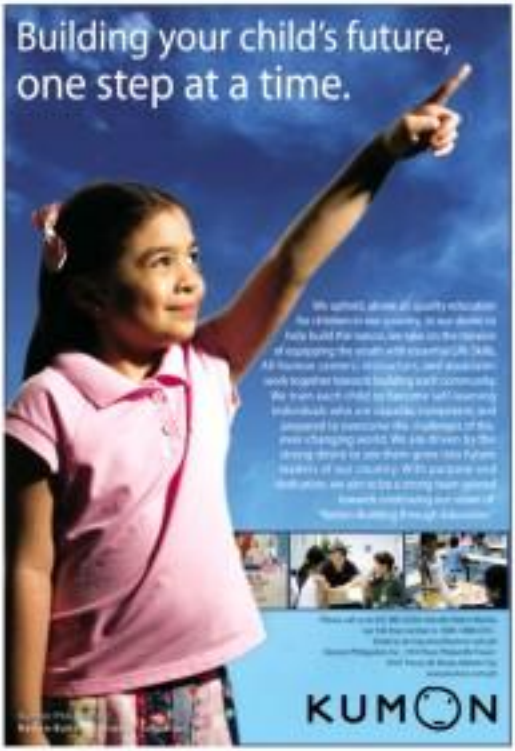
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Slain car theft suspects on PNP watch list

Gun battle not a rubout but legitimate encounter, says TMG official

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Blondi Pepe

THE WIFE OF ONE OF FIVE SUSPECTED CAR thieves who were killed in an alleged gun battle with operatives of the Traffic Management Group (TMG) on Monday told reporters yesterday that her husband had disappeared three days before the supposed encounter.

Jocelyn Lumiza, the wife of 28-year-old tricycle driver Michael Flores Lumiza, said her husband left their house in Meycauayan, Bulacan at around 6 a.m. Friday.

"He told me he was going to play concrete strike (a video game) at a computer shop nearby. That was his favorite game. He was with a friend. That was the last time I saw him," Jocelyn said in a telephone interview.

She added that she tried to call Michael on his cellphone but it had been turned off.

According to her, when she heard about five suspected car thieves who were killed in a shootout with TMG agents, she decided to go to the funeral homes where the bodies had been taken.

Jocelyn said she was troubled when she saw the clothes that her husband was wearing. All five suspects were dressed in black jacket jackets and maong pants marked "PNP (Philippine National Police)."

"He does not own any of those clothes. The black sweatshirt he wore looked brand new," she pointed out. She added that when she last saw Michael, he was wearing a pair of shorts, a white T-shirt and a pair of sandals.

"My husband is only a tricycle driver. He would never join a group involved in illegal activities," Jocelyn added.

Also killed in the alleged gun battle was Edelbert Ibada, 28, Michael's friend who was also a tricycle driver.

Only one of the five suspects has yet to be identified since no one has claimed his body from the funeral homes.

The two others were identified as Rhelander Tanseco, of Bataan; Rolando and Rodel Marquez Aguirre, 37, of Malabon City. Their bodies have already been taken by their kin.

All five were dead on [illegible] wounds, mostly in the head and chest, according to TMG director Chief Supt. Isreal Ibay. Tanseco was the leader of the group, he added that the suspect was also wanted for a string of robbery and car theft cases.

Amid speculation that what happened Monday was a subway, not a shootout, the PNP yesterday insisted that the incident was a legitimate encounter.

"There was no subway. It was a legiti-

ELAINE PCP

Illegal vendors big headache for QC gov't

By Margaux C. Ortiz

ILLEGAL VENDORS STILL REMAIN A BIG problem in Quezon City.

According to QC Market Development and Administration Department head Nell Lito Jr., the city government loses millions of pesos in revenues to the underground economy every year.

"The chaotic day that we have been having the city's illegal vendors is some say the open for their entrepreneurship and the legalization of their operations," Lito said in a statement.

QC Treasurer Victor Endriga Jr. said they have launched a program for the registration of the city's estimated 30,000 illegal vendors to "extend" them from unscrupulous law enforcers and individuals who might take advantage of their situation. "But so far, less than 1,000 hawkers have responded to the program," Endriga said.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and the so-called members of the underground economy cannot operate their businesses legally because their licenses were not issued by the city government "but by some policemen or barangay councilmen in exchange for some considerations."

The mayor said the law requires that those who want to register their businesses has been attributed to a law requiring mall holders employing more than five workers to pay them the minimum wage on top of the P1,000 registration fee.

"We want all city residents to know that there is an existing law called the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises with less than P1 million in capital from paying their workers the minimum wage," Belmonte explained.

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All quiet on Metro election front, says NCRPO

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ELEKSYON 2007

DESPITE INCIDENT CLAIMS FROM winning politicians, police yesterday declared no incidents of election-related violence have been reported in the metropolis so far.

This was the report of National Capital Region Police Office deputy director for operations Chief Supt. Jaime Jarnier, who attended a meeting with Commission on Elections' NCR officials yesterday.

"There were no election related violence cases in Metro Manila since the election period began," Comelec NCR Acting Regional Director Michael Guardo told the lawmakers.

Quoting Javier, Guardo said that earlier stories that some out were not in any way connected with the coming elections.

Most 209 police officers from the five police districts in the metropolis attended the meeting yesterday, where Comelec officials lectured on the Fair Elections Act.

Since Saturday, the national police and all its units had been placed under the supervision of the Comelec until June 30.

Police have been deputized to remove posters outside common poster areas and once seven days caught putting materials in banned places.

The Comelec NCR had earlier listed the following rules on campaign posters:

+Common poster areas have been designated in each city and town. Campaign materials outside these will be considered illegal.

+Posters should not exceed six square feet.

+Streamers should not exceed 24 square feet and should be hung only in rally sites. Streamers are allowed to be set up only within five days before a rally and will have to be removed within 24 hours after the rally ends.

Officials from the Manila Police District, the Eastern Police District (which has jurisdiction over San Juan town and the cities of Pasig, Mandaluyong and Marikina) and the Northern Police District (which has jurisdiction over Navotas town and the cities of Malabon, Valenzuela and Caloocan) attended the meeting session.

Those from the Quezon City Police District and the Southern Police District Director and the cities of Pasay, Parañaque, Makati, Taguig, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa) joined the afternoon session.

YELLOW DELIGHT
A boy sells a pile of boxes of rubber ducks for P125 a piece beside a road in Taytay, Rizal.

Only 2 bets show up for Manila pact

By Allison W. Lagos

A FLOOR CONTRACT SIGNING AMONG candidates in Manila was held yesterday at City Hall, with none other than Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos as guest.

If OLOR, stands for honest, orderly and peaceful elections.

But most of those expected to attend the event, which was set at 10 a.m., were no shows as it was overshadowed by hosting duties Mayor Lito Atienza's visit to City Hall.

Deception later were around the city on a motorcade to celebrate his victory over Bhoy Lim's Jorge India.

Of the 10 mayoral candidates expected to sign the covenant, only Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna was present.

Independent candidate Cito Isaak was the lone attendee among the 11 candidates for vice mayor.

In signing the covenant, candidates promise not to corrupt voters with money, to campaign with good grace and friendly rivalry and to graciously concede in the face of defeat.

Abalos, meanwhile, appealed to candidates to control their supporters and to immediately report any irregularities during the elections.

"When I see a candidate (myself in Mandaluyong, I felt ashamed. But I think I have a reason here in the Comelec. This is the last election under my watch," the official, former mayor of Mandaluyong City said in Filipino.

Slain . . .

From page A18

more engagement. They got down from their vehicle and exchanged shots with our men," Nu said.

PNP chief Director General Datuz Calderon said the relatives of the suspects are free to file charges against the police.

He added that Tuazon's group is one of the many car theft groups on the PNP watch list. Nu said that the suspects pose as policemen and flag down potential victims for a supposed traffic violation. They then steal the victim's vehicle as ransom.

The agents said they spotted the suspects' vehicle, a maroon Toyota Revo, on Kalayaan Road, Quezon City, and followed it up to Batasan where the suspects noticed that they were being tailed.

At this point, according to Paz, the five suspects alighted from the Revo and tried to flee while firing at their pursuers, prompting his men to fire back.

MetroBriefs

Chase ends in tragedy

A driver allegedly carrying samples of shabu inside his pocket was shot to death early Monday evening in Pasay, Batasan City. Police investigators believe the assault on the still unidentified victim was triggered by a drug dispute over illegal drugs. Records from the Pasay substation revealed that the incident happened at around 1 p.m. on Monday, at Block 14, Gumamela Road in Barangay Pasay. The victim, described as 5'7" tall, between 40 and 45 years old, dark-skinned, and clad in a red and white striped shirt and brown pants, was walking on Gumamela Road when a man suddenly chased him. A witness told investigators that the suspect pulled out a gun and then started firing at the victim until he fell dead.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Valenzuela vendor abducted

POLICE are now investigating the alleged abduction of a 32-year-old vendor carried out by at least two men before midnight yesterday in Valenzuela City. Said Billy Beltran said they are now verifying the reported kidnapping of Jonathan Lopez, 32, allegedly seized at the intersection of Pedro Gil Street and Mercedes Avenue in Barangay Ugong Norte. Beltran said the victim was supposedly involved in a shooting incident prior to his abduction.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Munti bet's drug rehab drive focused on family

By Julie M. Aurelio

ELEKSYON 2007

A CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR IN MUNTINLUPA City has promised a family-centered approach in rehousing drug dependents.

Jet Frontuli, wife of incumbent Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, yesterday announced her plans to convert one of the city's drug rehabilitation centers into what she called a Family Wellness Center, should she win in the May 14 elections.

The FWC will be an upgraded version of the Municipal Reformed Center (MRC) located in the Barangay Buenavista area, it will cater to rehabilitating drug and alcohol addicts.

The MRC treats dependents with a combination of group therapy sessions and lectures, using a 12-step program used by Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

But as its name suggests, the FWC will include the participation of persons' families and immediate relatives in their rehabilitation.

"The FWC will be a new home for drug dependents but it will also cure addictions to gambling, all forms of vices, computer games, alcohol and the like," Lee added.

Counselors

To ensure that a family will be able to help their wayward member, trained counselors will work with them, particularly on enhancing moral values and improving relationships among family members.

"I believe I can make a bigger difference by strengthening the moral values of families," she said.

Lee also announced her plans to establish a Special Education (SPED) Center, which aims to help in the development of special kids born with mental and physical defects.

A native of Catarman, Samar, Lee is an economics graduate of De Ateneo I, Quezon University.

First time

Her husband, Jaime, is already on his third and last term. He has expressed support for his wife's electoral bid. This is her first foray into politics.

According to her, she would continue her husband's eight-point program of governance which centers on education, health and sanitation, low-cost housing, peace and order, environment, local governance, infrastructure and employment.

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A testimonial dinner will be tendered in their honor by the UE Administration on Wednesday, 18 April 2007 at 6 p.m. at the Kachina Room of the Century Park Hotel, 599 P. Ocampo St., Malate.

For further inquiries, please call the Office of the Dean—Justice Dante O. Tinga Chamber, UE College of Law, Manila • Tel. Nos. 735-6978 or 735-5471 loc 324 • Email: law@ue.edu.ph

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UN Security Council to debate climate change

UNITED NATIONS—FOR THE FIRST TIME in its history, the UN Security Council on Tuesday will debate climate change, a report that the burning issue is increasingly being seen as a major threat to world security.

The theme of the open debate, held at the initiative of Britain, the council chair this month—is "Energy, security and climate." "We're looking to raise awareness of something which is gradually rising up on the agenda," a British official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said last week.

He said the British view was that "on economic grounds the cost of inaction outweighs the cost of action." "But in looking at what the costs of inaction are, we find that there is a security component and we'd like to raise awareness of that and whatever happens on Tuesday we feel that we've already succeeded," the diplomat added.

Organizing the debate, which is to be chaired by Britain's Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett was no easy feat, the British official said...noting that several key council members—such as the United States, Russia and China felt that the council was not the appropriate forum to discuss global warming.

The primary responsibility of the powerful body, as defined by the UN charter, is preserving international peace and security. And many UN members argue that tackling issues not directly linked to peace such as human rights, is not its business.

But a report released Monday by a blue-ribbon panel of retired US admirals and generals warned that global climate change presented a serious national security threat that could affect Americans at home, expand US military operations and heighten global tensions.

The study, titled "National Security and the Threat of Climate Change," looks at ways projected climate change is a "threat multiplier" in already fragile regions of the world, exacerbating conditions that lead to failed states, "the breeding grounds for extremism and terrorism." "Climate change is a national security issue," retired Gen. Gordon Sullivan, a former US army chief of staff, said in releasing the report at a press conference in Washington.

Sullivan predicted that climate instability will lead to instability in populations and impact American military operations around the world, "he added.

"Climate change is an issue which is accruing growing importance and threat as we go forward. Other types of ramifications of the phenomenon," said a Western diplomat to explain the British decision to.

AFP

Melting Himalayan glaciers pose security risk—UNEP

SINGAPORE—GLOBAL WARMING will cause the Himalayan glaciers to melt, leading to mass migration and possibly conflicts over valuable resources such as agricultural land and fresh water, the UN Environment Program chief said.

Achim Steiner, speaking ahead of the UN Security Council's first-ever debate on climate change, said that global warming should be considered a security issue as shortages of water and fertile land in the next 10 to 20 years may lead to conflicts.

The melting of the Himalayan glaciers is expected to displace millions of people from here lying land as sea levels rise, and will disrupt river flows and irrigation of agricultural land.

"When people start moving, it puts people into competition with one another," Steiner told Reuters in a phone interview from Nairobi. "Where will these people go? Where will they run to, where other communities were living?"

The Himalayan glaciers, which feed rivers in India and China, are among the fastest melting in the world.

Reuters

US: We're not to blame for Nokor nuclear holdup

PYONGYANG—THE UNITED STATES ON Monday rejected claims by Russia that it was to blame for North Korea's failure to meet a key deadline to begin shutting down its nuclear weapons program.

Moscow had accused Washington of failing to unblock $25 million in North Korean funds frozen in a Macau bank, which Pyongyang had demanded be released before it would begin disarming in line with a multilateral deal.

But State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack said Russia's assessment was "just not an accurate description of the situation." "It's clear that this is an issue with the North Koreans and their banker," McCormack told reporters.

"The ball is in the North Koreans' court and we'll see what they do." The North insisted today it would begin shutting down and sealing its Yongbyon nuclear site and readmit UN atomic inspectors once it had retrieved the funds from Banco Delta Asia, frozen under US-inspired sanctions.

But there has been no word since then on when and how the cash transfer will be made, and a Saturday deadline for the shutdown of the Yongbyon facility passed without any progress.

The US says the funds were freed for collection last week.

But in Moscow, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov said Washington was "not respecting the obligation to unfreeze this money and this is creating problems." "We cannot move forward so long as the North Koreans ask says that it has not received the money," he was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

"We need to talk not about deadlines but about fulfilling these agreements," in tandem with the six-party disarmament accord reached in February, the United States undertook in try to settle the row over the Macau accounts, which were frozen in 2005 on suspicion of money laundering and counterfeiting.

While McCormack and Washington and in negotiating partners were willing to give North Korea some days to act, as requested by China...they expected movement soon.

AFP

WINNING PHOTO: This photograph taken by Associated Press photographer Oded Balilty of a Jewish woman reuniting herself security forces during the removal of settlers in the West Bank won the 2007 Pulitzer Price for Breaking News Photography (See story on Page A12).

World Bank's executive board set to probe Wolfowitz' conduct

WASHINGTON—EMBATTLED WORLD Bank president Paul Wolfowitz clung to his job on Monday after a frantic week of revelations on a pay scandal involving his girlfriend that is to be examined soon by the organization's board of directors.

The board, set to meet this week to consider the implications of the hefty pay raise given to Wolfowitz's partner, bent World Bank staffers, is facing increasing pressure on the scandal.

The New York Times on Monday called for the ouster of Wolfowitz, arguing he had "fallen far short of his own standards" of good governance.

"What might Mr. Wolfowitz himself say if he discovered that a government receiving World Bank loans was making similar sweet arrangements for the personal friends of its president?" the paper asked in an editorial.

"There is no way Mr. Wolfowitz can recover his credibility and continue to be effective at the bank," Wolfowitz said separate after the bank's spring meeting in Washington that he has no intention to step down and added: "I need to continue with it." "We intend to abide by a high standard of internal governance here at the bank," Wolfowitz said, saying the wording of the communique published by the joint committee of the World Bank and IMF.

The 186 member bank's executive policymakers remained split on his fate.

Finance and aid ministers from the United States, Europe and other nations expressed "great concern" in a statement after the bank's spring meeting.

"We have to ensure that the bank can effectively carry out its mandate and maintain its credibility and reputation as well as the motivation of the staff," they said.

The statement said they would await the findings of a review by the World Bank's executive board into the conduct of Wolfowitz, who directed that his Libyan-born partner, Shaha Riza, get a bank pay deal worth nearly $200,000.

"Basically he's survived the week end," said Manish Bapna, director of the World Administration Center, a Washington group which tracks World Bank affairs.

"But he's about to embark on the IMF-[International Development Association] replenishment process in such a vulnerable state that he will not be able to fulfill this most important task," he said.

The IMF is the arm of the World Bank Group that offers grants and interest-free loans to the poorest countries, whose paltry spending budgets would have risked huge setbacks in aid.

The European Commission meanwhile also expressed concern over the situation after cheap comments last week by French officials.

Tradition since the founding of the World Bank dictates that the United States selects a head of the bank, while Europe chooses the leader for its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund.

In the Washington has held firm to its endorsement of Wolfowitz, who is seen as a protege of Vice President Dick Cheney.

The Wall Street Journal wrote Monday that Wolfowitz was the victim of a "smear" campaign.

AFP

Chimpanzees are almost human, sometimes smarter, say scientists

CHICAGO—DESCRIBED IN PICTURES and noted in captivity, chimpanzees invite comparisons with humans, their close relatives. They bear a family resemblance that fascination people, and scientists are increasing evidence of similarities in their behavior and skills, making some of them think on the question of evolution.

At some time, paleontologists and evolutionary biologists have known that chimp ancestors were the last line of to diverge from humans, probably more than six million years ago. More recent examination shows that despite profound differences in the two species, just a 1.23 percent difference in their genes separates Homo sapiens from chimpanzees, Pan troglodytes.

And certain similarities between the two species, scientists say, go beyond expressive faces and opposable thumbs.

Chimps display a remarkable range of behavior and talent. They make and use simple tools, hunt in groups and engage in aggressive, violent acts. They are social creatures that appear to be capable of empathy, altruism, self-awareness, cooperation in problem solving and learning through example and experience. Chimps even use politics in humans in some memory tasks.

In a presentation in March, "The Mind of the Chimpanzee" at the Lincoln Park Zoo here, more than 300 primatologists and other scientists reviewed astonishing knowledge of chimps' cognitive abilities.

Among the chief researchers University said that in his own studies he found that chimps as social animals have had to constrain and allow their behavior in various ways, as have humans. It is a part of ape inheritance, he said, and in the case of humans, the basis for morality.

Other reports shortly before the symposium had elaborated on the abilities of chimps as toolmakers. Jill Weeks, a primatologist at Iowa State University, described 22 examples of chimps in Senegal making stick spears to hunt smaller primates for their meat.

Tetsuro Matsuzawa, a primatologist at Kyoto University in Japan, described a young chimp watching as numbers one through nine flashed on the computer screen at random positions. "First the numbers disappeared in no more than a second. Chimpanzee's memory of where the numbers had been. The chimp usually had quickly pressed the squares, calling back the numbers in ascending order—one, two, three, etc.

The test was repeated several times, with the numbers and squares in different places. The chimp, which had months of training accompanied by promised food rewards, almost never failed to remember where the numbers had been. The video included scenes of a human failing the test, seldom scoring more than one or two numbers, if any.

"Humans can't do it," Matsuzawa said. "Chimpanzees are superior to humans in this task."

Matsuzawa suggested that early human species "lost the immediate memory and, in return, learned sophisticated, the language skills." New York Times News Service

Wall Street Journal wins 2 Pulitzers

NEW YORK—THE WALL STREET JOURNAL won two Pulitzer Prizes for exposing executives of corporations—in America and in communist China. The Associated Press captured one for what the judges called a "powerful, photographic" of a lone Iraqwoman sobbing toward an army bureau.

The journalism prizes awarded Monday recognized a range of American print journalists on subjects from the world's success to corruption in Alabama religious investment reviews.

The Journal, the only multiple winner, was honored for public service for its coverage of the stock-options scandal that rocked corporate America in 2006. It also won the international reporting award for what the judges praised as "sharply edged reports on the adverse impact of Chinese booming capitalism on conditions ranging from inequality to pollution."

"They were just tremendous pieces of work and I'm very proud of them," Managing Editor Paul Steiger said. "One of the most important moments of The Wall Street Journal is to expose ills it considers so that they can be corrected." And this coverage ... resulted in more than 100 companies making similar investigations and many companies having to restate their earnings."

The AP captured the Pulitzer for breaking news photography for Oded Balilty's picture of the dramatic moment a mourning Israeli security forces face to face as they removed settlers in the West Bank. The AP was a finalist in the same category for photos from the war between Israel and Lebanon, including one by Balilty.

"I feel like today I found the cure. It's amazing. I'm so happy, also for myself and also for the bureau," Balilty said.

The staff of The [Portland] Oregonian won for breaking news for its reporting on a California family that disappeared in the mountains during a Memorial. James Kim and his family made a wrong turn while driving from Seattle to San Francisco on following a Thanksgiving trip. Kim was found dead after his wife and two young daughters were rescued. The judges praised the newspaper for its "skilled and tenacious coverage ... telling the tragic story both in print and online."

"Our thoughts today are with the Kim family for us our reporting deserved, this is a tragic story that might have been avoided," executive Editor Peter Bhatia said.

Reporters Kenneth R. Weiss, Usha Lee McFarling and photographer Irfan Kamin of the Los Angeles Times won for explanatory reporting for stories on the world's dortoxed towns.

"This is such great work, and it's such a great city" said Editor James O'Shea, commander by mailers in the newspaper's third-floor newsroom, where medals had been affected by job cuts and management departure. AP

Vietnam sets economic forum

HANOI—VIETNAM'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPment and potential for further growth will be in the spotlight as an international forum organized by the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Vietnam News Agency (VNA) and Asia News Network (ANN).

The Vietnam Economic Forum, to be held in Ho Chi Minh City on April 23 entitled "Regional integration/modernization of Vietnam", aims to explore its current momentum in economic growth following the country's entry into the World Trade Organization.

The VNAs deputy director general, Tran Mai Hoang, said Vietnam has changed significantly following 20 years of renewal. "The high economic growth rate has grown unintensively," said Hoang, who is also deputy head of the forum's organizing committee.

He said the country's economic and political environment was stable and external relations and integration in the world market continued to be broadened and brought to new heights.

Participation by co-organizers the MPI has helped the forum to be more professional.

Bora Amaraj, executive director of ANN said president of Thailand's the Nation group, said the forum was expected to be attended by up to 200 overseas business people, researchers and representatives of media agencies, alongside 200 other local and foreign businessmen already working in Vietnam.

The forum will not only cover the Vietnamese economic outlook but also the nation's changing relations in the region and wider business and economic investment chats.

The event will be opened by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung with participation by three other economic ministers. Singapore's Minister of State for Trade and Industry S Iswaran, will deliver a keynote address. Other speakers are leading business people and experts from Malaysia, Switzerland, Singapore, Thailand, USA, Taiwan, and Japan.

Bora said the ANN aimed to promote pan-Asian coverage of news that reflected "dialogue taking place in Asia."

The Vietnam Economic Forum is sponsored by Vietcombank, Hanoi Municipal, Citigroup and Phu My Hung Joint Stock Company partners HC Vietnam and Taiwanese CEO.

General Director of the MPI Foreign Investment Agency, Phan Duc Chung, said while implementing the renewal policy launched by Viet Nam's Communist Party and Government, Vietnam had continuously improved its legal system in order to meet the demands of global economic integration and the development of a modern, oriental economy.

Honda Civic declared RP's Car of the Year

It was all in the hands of the Car Awards Group Inc. (CAGI). It was a time of sheer anticipation. The Philippines' leading car manufacturers have gathered, awaiting the announcement of the winners of the 3rd Car of the Year Awards.

CAGI is an organization of over 40 motoring journalists from print, radio, television, and online media outlets. Headed by its board of directors Aida Sevilla Mendoza of Philippine Daily Inquirer, Alvin Uy of motioncars.com, Lester Dizon of Motorcycle Magazine, Roberto Consunji of Top Gear, and Aris Ilagan of Manila Bulletin, CAGI aims to recognize and honor the efforts of car manufacturers in the Philippines.

Through instrumented tests that measure vehicle acceleration and brakes and qualitative tests that rate ergonomics, handling, ventilation, safety and value for money, all 37 different motor vehicles were driven on the straight, sweeping curves and tight corners of Forest Hills Golf and Country Club in Antipolo. The tests were observed by representatives from the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) and the results were audited by Sycip Gorres Velayo and Company (SGV).

Following seven weekends of rigid tests, winners from 11 different car categories and one over-all winner emerged. Among all car entries, including the Honda Accord for the executive car category and the Honda Pilot for the luxury SUV category, the Honda Civic 1.8S was named as the over-all Car of the Year winner, apart from receiving the Best Compact Vehicle and the Best Value for Money awards.

Honda Civic's badges of honor for 2006: Best Compact Car of the Year and Best Value for Money

HCPI's Mr. Takashi Sekiguchi raises the prestigious symbol of the Honda Civic's winning excellence

This comes as no surprise for Honda. Having received the first ever Car of the Year Award in 2004 for the Honda Accord VII, Honda continues to uphold its tradition of excellence with international honors garnered for the all-new Civic. Awards include 2006 Car of the Year from Car News International-Taiwan, Autocar Asean's Overall Winner Car of the Year-Malaysia, JAHFA (Japan Automotive Hall of Fame Award) Car of the Year, Auto Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) Car of the Year, and North America's Motortrend Car of the Year to name a few.

Innovativeness in design and technology was what made the all-new Civic rise among its competitors. In terms of styling, the sleek and svelte stance of the Civic clearly set it apart from other compact vehicles. Its unique streamlined profile and seductive curves defined the Civic's eye-catching exterior. Highly visible fog lamps, dual tailpipes, and 15 inch alloy wheels add to its sporty design.

The all-new Civic is not all good looks, the true beauty of this sedan lies under its shiny hood. A powerhouse of superior performance, the Civic's 1.8L engine packs dynamic agility and fuel efficiency that's ready to take on any road. Its Sequential SportShift allows effortless authority and superior drivability with manual-style moves.

Inside the expansive cabin of the all-new Civic, both driver and passengers can find comfort in its seamless and sophisticated interiors. Complete with well-thought out amenities like a height adjustable driver seat and panoramic heat-absorbing UV-cutting glass windows, its interiors create a luxurious environment for all occupants.

The all-new Civic's refined cockpit is a work of sporty sophistication. It features a three-spoke steering wheel and digital LED Multiplex Meter display for convenient viewing. Stepping into the cockpit of the all-new Civic is like stepping into an entirely different world where function meets futuristic elegance.

Aside from its sultry design, the all-new Civic does not fall short on safety features. The G-CON technology and ABS with EBD which Honda engineers have standardized in every model make the all-new Civic a safe car for driver and passengers alike.

Catch the fever with the all-new Civic. Visit any authorized Honda dealer to experience the ingenuity and dynamism that have made the all-new Civic the prestigious Car of the Year for 2006.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ibanez

Bush rejects any Iraq pullout deadline

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush, ahead of talks with lawmakers pushing for an Iraq withdrawal timetable, warned Monday that he would reject a pending war-funding bill if it comes with a deadline.

Two days before hosting congressional leaders, Bush accused Democrats who have attached a 2008 withdrawal timeline to the president's $86-billion spending request of trying to "legislate defeat in the midst war." "The consequences of failure would be death and destruction in the Middle East and here in America," he warned. "I hope the Democratic leadership will drop their unsustainable demands for a precipitous withdrawal." Democrats, who harnessed anger at the Iraq war to capture the US Congress last November, have been working to reconcile the House of Representatives and Senate versions of the spending measure and send a compromise for Bush to sign.

"Congress is committed to fully funding our troops, changing the course in Iraq and responsibly ending the war," said Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

"The president has a choice to make in the coming days. Cling to the discredited policies that have led our troops farther into an intractable civil war or work with bipartisan majority of Congress to make us more secure." Democrats say they want a pullout deadline. The White House, meanwhile, has made clear that Bush has no plans to compromise when he receives congressional leaders from both parties at the White House on Wednesday.

Bush has previously repeatedly said that he will veto any legislation that aims to impose a withdrawal timetable, equating such a step to automatic defeat, while criticizing lawmakers for attaching funds unrelated to the war to the overall bill. AFP

Astronaut runs Boston Marathon in space

ASTRONAUT Sunita 'Suni' Williams runs on a treadmill with her Boston Marathon number 14999 displayed on the International Space Station, Monday, April 16.

BOSTON—AN AMERICAN AStronaut became the first person to run the Boston Marathon in space on Monday, completing the 42.16-km on a treadmill on the orbiting International Space Station.

Suni Williams, who was an official entrant in the race, took four hours 23 minutes 46 seconds, said John Yembrick, a spokesperson for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

On Earth, Williams has run marathons in about 3 1/2 hours.

Williams said in a media briefing early this month: "Just the fact that I'm running that much slower is going to make it little bit tedious because it's going to be a long time on the treadmill."

Race officials were not able to calculate her finishing spot immediately but found out last year's results, she would be ranked at about 8,300th place among about 7,600 women runners.

Williams ran in steady 23.8 Celsius temperatures in the still air of the space station.

She faced very different conditions from the frigid rain, 10 kph maximum wind gusts and 1.9 Celsius temperatures handled by her earthbound competitors.

While many of the athletes complained that the weather conditions made for a slow, uncomfortable race, Lidiya Grigoryeva, the women's champion, said she'd been ready for it.

"During the training in Russia, the weather conditions were similar to the conditions today," Grigoryeva said/reporters after the race.

Williams, 41, who considers Needham, Massachusetts, her hometown, qualified for the race by finishing among the top 100 women in the 2006 Houston Marathon.

She has been in orbit since December and has trained on a specially modified treadmill. Reuters

Sadr bloc pulls out of Iraqi government

BAGHDAD—RADICAL CLERIC Moqtada al-Sadr pulled his six ministers out of Iraq's Sunni-Shiite national unity government on Monday as he pushed his demand for a rapid withdrawal of US troops from the country.

The Shiite hardliner—who has not been seen in public since December—was angered last week when street protests failed to persuade Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to set a timeline for American forces to go home.

Sadr's bloc is the largest single political group in Maliki's fragile governing coalition, but the prime minister will be able to cling to power if he keeps the support of smaller Shiite and Kurdish groups.

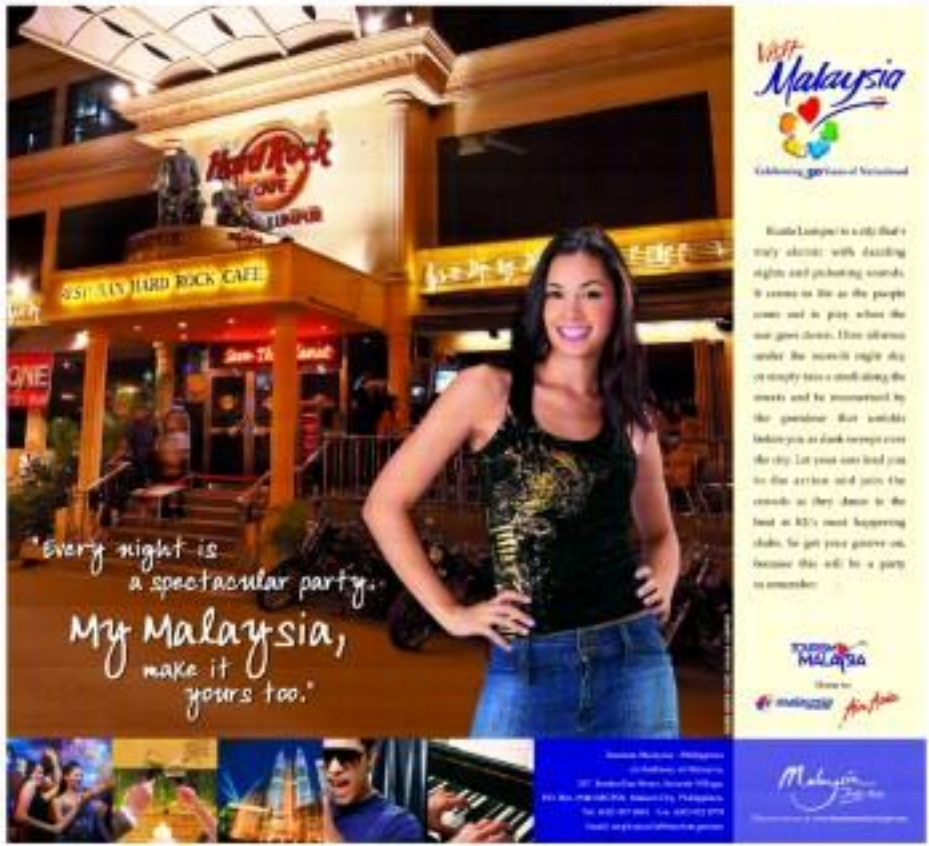
Lawmaker Hassan al-Sultani, from Sadr's movement, flanked by allies from his 32-strong parliamentary bloc, announced the withdrawal at a Baghdad news conference, reading a statement from the cleric.

"The six ministers shall be handed over to the government itself" in the hope that this government will give clear responsibilities to independent bodies who wish to serve the interest of the people and the country," it said.

Sultani explained the reasons behind the move.

"The main reasons are the prime minister's lack of response to the demands of nearly one million people in Sadr calling for the withdrawal of US forces and the deteriorating situation in security and services," he said.

On April 9, a rally organized by the group saw huge crowds of Shiites gather in the holy city of Najaf to demand the withdrawal of foreign troops from the war-ravaged country. AFP



WHAT'S INSIDE

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SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres

Send us your feedback: inquirer.sports@gmail.com; fax 896-2262 or 893-2641; E-mail us...

Pacquiao: I underestimated Solis

By Michael Lim Ubac

MANNY PACQUIAO ADMITTED YESTERDAY HE HAD underestimated the guile of the erstwhile unbeaten Jorge Solis of Mexico.

Pacquiao, who paid a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo along with wife Jinkee at Malacañang, said he initially found it hard to hit Solis with his power combinations.

"Magaling sumiko at nakakapagpalit (sila) nadi and good at counting punches," Pacquiao told Malacañang reporters.

"Ang hirap-hirap maunawaan siya, mahirap siyang sabayan yung timing niya sa pagsuntok. Pero nung dumugo[ed], I was hard to hit him in the face because he's tall," added the World Boxing Council International super featherweight champion.

When he met with the Pasadena press conference, Pacquiao sported four stitches over his left eye.

He said he started going at Solis' body—"ang pinakamaimportanteng parte ng katawan ni Solis (the weakest part of Solis' body)"—when blood started to flow from the head butt Solis had given him in the sixth round.

"When I saw blood ... I got a bit angry," recalled the Filipino, who finally knocked out Solis with still 1:46 to go in the eighth round of their fight at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

"Medyo nagalit na ang partner ko kaya nakapagpalit ito ng diskarte ko sa pagsuntok. I was blinded by rage and hurt by the kiss," he said.

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Harbour-RP gears up for SEAG

By Jasmine W Piya

THE MISSIONS NOT YET OVER AS PBL-Harbour Centre is concerned.

After topping the recent Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) Champions Cup, Harbour Centre-Philippines is setting its sights on a new target: The Southeast Asian Games.

Harbour Centre owner and chief backer Mikee Romero is eyeing a spot—two spots and possibly even three—for Philippine Basketball Association as the team prepares for a flying follow-up to the season's successful maiden foray in international competition past Visayan.

"In the next six months, we must have at least one competition outside the Philippines," Romero said at the PBA forum yesterday. "We're looking to [take with] commercial teams in Taiwan, South Korea or China."

And setting up open tryout will also be considered in June. A 20-late lineup will be laced in August, which will be trimmed down in the succeeding months.

"We're hoping to include the four players who showed exceptional ability in Seaba," said Romero, citing Harbour Cebu, JC Intal, Jonathan Fernandez and Ryan Arabe. "But we also plan to request four or five PBA players to join the ensemble. [At first top of list] naked is the [Yeadons] and Sonny [de Ocampo]. Just having the two will be a big help."

The coaching staff will also be tasked to scout the other Southeast Asian countries.

"We've been absent from international basketball for two years so we cannot take any country for granted," noted Romero, who graced the varsity sports forum with assistant coach Lawrence Chongson, assistant team manager Erick Arejola and business affair affairs Tanya.

Harbour Centre-RP bagged the Champions Cup crown after trouncing Samba Mark-Reforma in Indonesia, 85-67, in Jakarta on September night.

"The dark spot of Philippine basketball are it's really over," said Romero.

The PBL, led by vice chair Cecilia Pedro, also honored the players, coaching staff and officials of Harbour Centre-RP during the league's opening this yesterday at the Ortigas Sport Center.

Whoppers hot; Kramer bails out Moneymen

By Jasmine W Piya

NEW NAME, SAME INTENSITY.

Burger King, formerly Mail and More, banked on a 16-2 spurt in the last six minutes to subdue Hotshot Siete, 89-72, at the start of the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Ortigas College Sports Center.

And the Whoppers turned in the same set of stars—Burger Boonsak and JR Quiñahan, who pumped in 21 points apiece—to clinch the victory and set the team's meteoric high going into a big match against a formidable foe.

"Hopefully, this is the shape of things to come," said coach Lawrence Chongson. "It's a good take off because we'll face defending champion Harbour Centre in our next game."

Boonsak, who played a key role in Mail and More's third-place finish last conference, drilled the scoring charge that turned the Whoppers' slim (57-54) lead to a 17-point buffer (83-66, with only 3:20 remaining.

The star-first guard teamed up with fiery blockbuster in the fourth-quarter rally, while Quiñahan soared with 14 points in the third period to lead the Whoppers to a 58-47 advantage there.

In the second game, Doug Kramer completed a three-point play with 18.2 seconds remaining to lift Johnson Thriller Wire Makati past San Miguel-Magnolia, 76-74.

The scores

First Game

BURGER KING 89

Boonsak 21, Quiñahan 21, Abueva 9, Arana 8, Salamanca 6, Aquino 5, Baclit 4, Gotladera 4, Ayo 3, Cortez 2, Del Rosario 2, Aquino 2, Alcoy 2.

HOME DEPOT 72—Bacani 19, Ilustre 15, Mercado 11, Dela Paz 8, Mendoza 6, Cruz 5, Mendoza 4, Ilagan 3, Cabral 2, Cajigal 2, Tan 2.

Quarters: 18-16, 39-30, 57-47, 89-72.

Second Game

JOHNSON THRILLER 76—Ross 18, Ilustre 16, Yang 10, Dela Cruz 8, Escalona 6, Dela Paz 5, Sta. Maria 4, Lorenzo 4, Capus 3, Cajigal 2, Tan 2.

SAN MIGUEL-MAGNOLIA 74—Ayo 20, Melgar 11, Dizon 10, Jones 6, Antonio 7, Serrano 4, Antonio 4, Serrano 2, Arnaiz 2, Castro 2, Serrano 2, Angeles 0, Arcilla 0.

Quarters: 20-16, 46-42, 58-58, 76-74.

SCOTCH Eliseo of Hotshot Siete (right) is fouled from behind by Ian Garvin of Burger King in their game yesterday.

Save Manny Pacquiao from mediocre Mexicans

Bare Eye

Bacsak Trinidad

THUNK. A MEDIOCRE MEXICAN WITH 5,000 feeble lasers, failed to bring out the best in Manny Pacquiao.

There were serious drama, but the collective heroic did not reach the required noble level.

In fact, Pacquiao hasten to cut to the left eye. Soon...a fist was accidentally wrapped of bone man—for Mexicoldan with the old fist.

The Pacman finally quicked and opened eyeses.

But this was already in the sixth round.

Himself speaking, Pacquiao would admit he took it easy and played around in the early rounds.

Maybe Pacquiao did this on purpose?

Or did he decide to clean first by assistance with his promoter, Bob Arum, who insisted the impending comeback as a built to classic?

* * *

If time is counts stated Chat Bodily turned tight only with the help of an accustomed handfast.

Of course, Pacquiao would display commendable maturity in going all-out for the inevitable knockout.

While the promised picnic basket would darken and willingly emerge, the Filipino hero did not oblige.

Pacquiao ran composed, methodical, dignified.

There was no butchery, but instead a thinking man's fight.

However, the demolition of the hitherto unbeaten Jorge Solis would not—shall not—be realized among the best of Manny Pacquiao.

Mr. Arum had again successfully marketed a mismatch was for some collusion, they to-simultaneal earnings of the vulgar.

* * *

So, Pacquiao did not have to throw his biggest punch to topple his shaky foe.

After Solis had flipped off the Xxx following the first knockdown in Round 8, all Pacquiao needed was another nudge for Solis to go down again and all was willingly fun up.

It would become clear Solis was in full control of his senses but, nevertheless, stayed down long enough to reveal being chastised out.

That would've been a forgettable ploy but no, it if Solis were not a Mexican who trust upheld the insatiable legacy of his macho predecessors like Bobby Chavez, Julio Cesar Chavez and, yes, Nik Morales.

Solis, full of hopeful before the fight, has since fled Mexican hosting in the eyes of the world.

Of course, he was right in saying his withe could hit harder than Pacquiao.

Solis was already down on the floor plotting a sleep escape before Pacquiao could cock his patented killer fellow-up.

* * *

(TRAGIC TEXT: His enemies, based on his last win manager, was in the uncertain where-to was helping out jews, hungry, oppressed glutens. That was my friend Benjie Angeles, a dedicated agricultural activist. Yesterday, there came the tragic text message. "This is Jessa, daughter of Benjie Angeles. I apologize for being the bearer of bad news. Our dear father passed away at 10:08 a.m. 13 April 2007. Asian Hospital. His remains lie at Arlington Memorial Chapel, Sucat City. Please send flowers. Thank you." Pray for this unsung hero, please.)

Escudero urges revival of nat'l games

SENATE BILL CHEERS PRINCE

"Chiz" Escudero yesterday urged the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) to consider the revival of the Philippine National Games (PNG), lauding also for a former link between grassroots and elite sports.

In a press release e-mailed to media offices yesterday Sunday, a three-term congressman from Sorsogon seeking a Senate seat under the Genuine Opposition, said the was a more systematic way for the country to win an Olympic gold.

"We've had close wins, but close wins are just that," Escudero said. "Sports should be among the priorities of the government because it does not only fill Philippine pride, it also inspires the younger generation—our future leaders—to strive harder to make a good country."

The country has had near close shots at the gold with Anthony Villanueva losing in the boxing finals of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and Mokwahi "Mokwi" Mitsch falling short in the 1996 Atlanta Olympiad, where he lost to Bulgaria Daniel Ingilov in the finals.

The country's most shot at an Olympic gold will come in Beijing next year.

Senators, however, lamented the wide gaps has sounds in between a Habong Bonifacio attendees and a nationwide draft.

"So big only those who were given the chance to be tapped early in their athletic careers have the opportunity to become national athletes, or those who succumbed to pay for their training with the long term goal of making it, at least, to the Southeast Asian Games," Escudero said. "But yes, I have a still-notion of sports so all they need is a way to bridge that gap."

Escudero hinted for the PNG as an achievable goal.

The PNG was the brainchild of ex-sports administrator Gilbert Dupire and was started in 1991 before he was elected POC president in 1994.

The PNG, however, was removed from the POC's priority projects at the turn of the century.

Dragons try to spew fire vs Bulls

STANDINGS	W	L
Red Bull	7	3
Alaska	7	3
Ginebra	7	3
Air21	6	4
Coca-Cola	6	4
Talk 'N Text	5	5
Sta. Lucia	3	6
Purefoods	3	6
Welcoat	1	8
San Miguel	1	8

JAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:30 p.m. — Talk 'N Text vs. Sta. Lucia
7:45 p.m. — Welcoat vs. Alaska

WELCOAT UNVEILS A NEW IMPORT AND played with an altogether different look Sunday night.

Though the result was practically the same—another loss—the newcomer Dragons certainly showed that they could go further in the PBA Fiesta Cup with Bob Sanders leading them more than anyone else.

And tonight, the Dragons (1-8) test the guts of their debut when they clash with defending champion Red Bull at the elimination round encounters at the Araneta Coliseum.

Sanders, the former Providence star in the NCAA who was a runner-up in the 1.06 slam dunk contest, played with a lot of ballhawk instinct from start on. Philippine said. He shot 10 points, had 14 rebounds, six assists and five blocks.

They were, certainly limited numbers from original import pick Charles Clark used to overwhelm Sanders showed the ability to dominate inside the paint, the one thing lacking in the lanky Clark's game.

Sanders, though, will have to handle a real test test against Jimmy Alapag to show that he successfully take the Dragons to the next phase.

Game time is 7:30 p.m. with the Bulls seeking win No. 8 in 10 games, while the Dragons try to close out their first round schedule on a bright note by bringing down the defending champions.

Talk N Text, coming off two straight defeats, tries to get back on track against a Sta. Lucia side that returned to its old sluggish ways in the 6:30 p.m. special.

The Realtors, after an impressive game from behind win over Coca-Cola last week, were humbly disposed off by Alaska, 103-88, also Sunday with only super rookie Kelly Williams playing above par.

Rich Winston was one of those who struggled and failed to help, finishing with just 17 markers after a excellent game against the Tigers. He needs to open the tonight, with the standing staff resuming his may have a day to day basis.

Williams had 20 points and a hassle down to be only sustained performer for Sta. Lucia, which

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RP athletes may give up 24 repeat gold bids

By Jaime Maranora

TEAM PHILIPPINES IS EXPECTED to lose its bid for as many as 24 gold medals it won in the previous Southeast Asian Games even before the Thailand edition of the games can begin.

The developed after Thailand rescinded its events in dragon boat, four in gymnastics, four in diving, and 10 in wushu—events which constituted nearly to the 24 medals the Philippines won to clinch its first-ever overall title in 2005.

Based on the Thai event structure, the Philippines will lose 24 golds," said Philippine Olympic Committee deputy secretary-general Mark Joseph after emerging from a joint meeting with Philippine Sports Commission officials yesterday.

"It appears that the Thai strategy for event selection is designed to cripple our championship bid."

Ironically, many of the scrapped events are Olympic disciplines.

"We really have to lobby for the inclusion of these events under Thailand's terms," Joseph said.

Party-list ni Pacquiao!
PBA PARTY-LIST
Party-List ng Bayaning Atleta

FISTIANA FIGHTS

This 'Bomber' has soft heart for ex-boxers

THE MAN BEHIND SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S biggest boxing events in the past has returned to center ring as a retired ring legend will reunite eighteen of the local sporting greats at once.

Veteran boxing promoter Bernie Tiamzon emerged from semi-retirement to help the Philippine Sportswriters Association rope firefloyd funds for destitute and disabled boxing fighters.

Tiamzon is promoting the Fiesta Fistiana on April 20 at the Pinoy Sidekick Park—which will have as its main bout Alex Buscano's defense of his IBF super bantamweight crown against No. 3 Jake Nonsuwan 12 rounds.

"Matagal na rin akong lumipat. It's been a long time since I stopped promoting fights, pero sa dinami-rami ng pinoy na pumapasok sa ring, I feel that I owed about this chance to help" decided boxers," said Tiamzon, who promoted fights that featured former world champions Rolando Navarrete and the Petalcorin brothers Dodie Boy and Gerry.

"Gusto ko rin makatulong if also may tubo ha."

The event, free to the public, will help provide a source of livelihood for the disabled boxers to be chosen by the PSA, Games and Amusements Board and the City of Manila.

Instead of giving out cash, organizers will grant livelihood packages or "pangkabuhayan" materials like sari-sari store.

San Miguel Corp. and the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. are the event's main sponsors.

Arnold "Al" Mesina, before relinquishing his post as Manila Sports Council chairman for the impending election year, announced his resignation with the PSA to provide the fight's cash event and in to sponsor the event, the holder 1955.

Bernie Cielo, No. 216 flyweight division, battles Cadet Bonaire while fourth-ranked super bantamweight Jake Tuzon face off with Johnny Gaya in the other top draw of the card also backed PCSO and Cebuco. Inquirer Sports Staff

SPORTSWATCH

160 fights up in Roligon finals

THE CLIMACTIC FINALE OF THE "KING OF THE Ring" 3-inch derby-styles at 10 a.m. today at Hidden Magnificent with 160 fighters on the 9-man starting field of 288 entries. Six-rounded contender strikes every each Accomplice rule and impacts the P1 million guaranteed prize are Ricky Sandits, Boy Marco, 2001 Legaspi champ Ike Ramirez, Lauro Dalmon, Eric Rapadas, Oscar Cabo, Hey Pangandoy, Henry Lusk, Mating Dorado, Ruley de Vera, Erwin Clamante, Danny Pastor, Dan Torres, Tony Gonzales, Robert-Jose Cruz, Erwin Adigue, Raymund Burgos, Lauro Cruz, Herman Rosales, Marky Agulto. Tony Cortez and Greg Lucero.

Bacolor Gold is on in Makati

A TOUGH GAST TO CROSS WILLIAMSON starting opening two-tributary Pangasa will see action today in the "Bacolor Gold" 3-inch derby at Makati Coliseum, with Erning Darby Ace and Gino Matiako as sponsors. The first of more than 160 fights starts at 2 p.m., with host Elmo Condon, Pangasa's entries, Dupe Pinamont and A. will be handled by his manager/partner Nelson Salvacion. Last March 31, Dupe Pinamont topped the 45-entry Hexabor derby at the same venue. Among those joining Pinamont in the hunt for the title are Jun Santiago, Geo Ho Wiseno, Cesar Cua, William Dos Santos, Rolando Canuto, Nani Lopez, Raymond Palugo, Romulo Amado, Lito Alde Bisio and Ad Fernando.

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Rockets boost playoff chances

HOUSTON—TRACY MCGRADY POURED IN 39 points and Yao Ming added 34 to lift the Houston Rockets to a 120-117 victory over the visiting Phoenix Suns on Monday (new 10th win in a row).

The victory snapped a six-game losing streak against the Suns and gave the Rockets home-court advantage for the first round of the playoffs, which start on Saturday.

"This was a great season, phenomenal because we know how important that game was," McGrady told reporters after collecting 11 rebounds and nine assists to add to his 39 points.

"If we win, we know we're getting home court. Everybody was moving to the middle. I don't know if it's the same feeling, but it feels like winning a playoff series. I know there's harder and better battles ahead, but today is a big win."

The victory did not come without anxious moments, however.

The Rockets led by 16 points with 2:11 remaining but did not score another field goal.

Phoenix, meanwhile, scored seven straight points and twice had a chance to tie the score but Steve Nash and Amare Stoudemire missed three pointers in the closing eight seconds.

Stoudemire had the Suns with 30 points, Shawn added 27 and Nash had 13 points and 15 assists.

Despite the loss the Suns still have the Western Conference's No. 2 seed in the playoff. The Rockets will be the fourth seed.

In other games, Vince Carter had 30 points (12 rebounds and 10 assists) to help the playoff-bound New Jersey Nets extend a 104-95 road win over the New York Knicks.

Pau Gasol's 26 points helped the Memphis Grizzlies to a surprise 103-91 home win over the San Antonio Spurs, who rested starters Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili.

Allen Iverson scored 26 points as the Denver Nuggets cruised to their ninth victory in 10 games, a 122-107 home win over the Minnesota Timberwolves. —Reuters

PHOENIX center Amare Stoudemire finds his view of the basket blocked by a tangle of arms and hands. —AP

Boo chips way to big weekend

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA—Boo Weekley didn't blow his chance but it took Q-School to get him to the PGA Tour.

Weekley birdied six of his last seven holes for a 5-under 67 and a two-shot victory Sunday in the Verizon Heritage, his first win since he earned his card at the 2005 Q-School finals.

Weekley looked as if he would give Frank Jr. a three-shot lead after his bogey on the 16th hole and his stuffed chip behind the 17th green. Weekley followed Jim Furyk's birdie with a 40-foot, par-saving chip to keep a one-stroke lead.

But then Weekley had his troubles on Harbour Town's lighthouse hole, No. 18. He stepped across the green and into the fluffy rough down a short slope. Once again, Weekley's chest game saved him, this time rolling it to four. He first camp.

"I tried," Weekley said. "He's a man."

The Big Easy bidding for his first tour win since 2000, lost his shutter on No. 17, driving to—to the fairway behind the green for a bogey. He made things interesting, though, putting his second shot in the 18th hole 1 foot.

Weekley finished with a 68 and was one in front of Furyk (70).

Weekley had gained the sympathy of golfers everywhere last month when he missed a 3-foot—or was that 4-foot? Both sides of the Hondo Chain that marked the green into the outcome was, instead, Weekley fell into a four-man playoff eventually won by Mark Wilson. AP

Marcelo shows up favorites

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—JUAN STEFANO Marcelo of Marcelo Racing showed nerves of steel against top talents going down the wire to finish his second straight win yesterday in the second leg of the 2007 Shell Helix Karting Super Series at the International Racing Circuit here.

Marcelo made a last-minute dive at the last 30 meters to win back defending champion Marco Gadelli of Mercedes Racing and Mark Bongcayao of BMW Racing in one of the closest finishes ever in the premiere Formula 125 class.

He clocked 35 minutes and 29.098 seconds in the 12-lap race, winning by a fraction of a second over Gadelli. Bongcayao, who dominated most of the race, came in third just 0.409 seconds behind Marcelo.

Marcelo, despite recovering from a slight knee injury chipped off race records in his 1:28 practice time to be posted the day's fastest lapsince of 1:16.863 in Race Two.

"I was lucky to escape that three-way battle in the finals line. I was just waiting the moment of the time but I saw the opportunity down the turns and made that timely maneuver for the win," said Marcelo.

JUAN Stefano Marcelo (21) (center) put Marco Gadelli (1) and Mark Bongcayao (3) at the corners to cross the finish for good.

Gadelli made his mark in the ROS Series class when he turned back then-partner Jhan Ickson Daniel Cook of Red Motorsports and Bobby Domingo.

Mike Guerrero of RiRacing, who won the debut leg, capped his second win in the ROS Series class win Sunday Gandhiness of the Lobo Racing Group.

Among the other winners in the event were two-time Intercollegiate Association Philippines (AIP) team Red Motorsports drivers Jady Villalon, Jane Reyes and Fonnie Reyes.

Villalon scraped the big score from Mercedes Racing's Oliver Aguino to win the Formula 2L Expert class by just 0.116 seconds.

Ray Shakime of Tuason Racing Beat Shakime bagged the Lykan

Jaro Perez topped the Formula M, Rookie division beating newcomers Paolo Perez and Ryan Mercado while Reyes captured the Honda Blitz Series senior over Ishion Buenaventura.

Amit comes of age

THE COUNTRY'S FOREMOST WOMAN JIL Sanda player, Dalidio Amit, has finally arrived, scoring upset wins over reigning champion Alex Gayoung of South Korea and former world ranks Allison Fisher of Britain in the recent Asiaway 88% Women's Wind Champs onslaught Taipei.

Although the 25-year-old Amit, also known as Shinjini, lost to Dimon Bee Kiesling in the finals, 11-5, the Filipina net-ace won acclaimed the Philippines' billet status in world-level play.

A double gold medal winner in the 22nd Southeast Games in Manila two years ago, Amit failed to make an impact in her first try at the 2005 World Women's 9-ball championship, also held in Taipei, losing to Sweden's Charlotte Svensson, 7-6, in the Round of 24.

But she made sure she would not disappoint this time by finishing second to Pan in the tournament featuring the world's best.

Amit first stunned pool followers by beating Yichen, 5-3, in the Filipina sweeper table 4-7. She later moved to Group 11 and—cutting her a berth in the knockout rounds of the event that offered handsome prizes of $20,000 and $10,000 to the champion and runner-up, respectively.

In the quarterfinals, Amit ousted defending champion Chen, 7-2, while in the semifinals she topped Japan's Yukiko Hamasaki, 9-6, to arrange a final showdown with Bee.

It was a very impressive season up-performance, which in my view is a silver worth more than gold. After the exciting performances, Amit thanked her benefactor, sportsman Arturo "Pinch" Pepar for his support, including bankrolling her trip to Taipei.

She also thanked her two coaches, Bayet Aurora and Ramon Bocaja, her teammates Iris Rafiola, Mary Ann Bunar and Johanna Dee who were always by her side; her parents, and, especially, the Lord Almighty.

"To Jilil himself," said Amit, a former Makati mill winner emphasis. She is a native of Mandaue City but now resides in Taguig City.

Amit also thanked Pan Asian pool stand as the 1st SEGP National Women's Champ onship next by Rafiola. Last year, she made it to the last 20 of the Fuerza Phoenix 9-Ball Tour to qualify for the 27-way ordeal.

Amit also won the 2001 Asia 9-ball Championship in Singapore and was the first woman to qualify for the men's National Open 9-ball by earning up with an impressive streak in the fourth leg of the qualifying event.

"Yesterday in the weekly Pilot hours, the Lady Lightnings vowed to make it two in a row by their school.

"Major matching, para kakapanin ako nitong," said Ms. Jane Deleño Perez, who will have up with Mary Ann D. Calleja in the tournament.

Aside from Amit and Bunar and Melissa Matero in Guys make up the other local team.

Organizer Tesha Alcaraz, Jessica Tesda and Rosalyn Ecabal, University of the East's Misty Abigail Lucanin and Mark Cortez, marketing manager of Asiaway Sports TV. Tickets by VIP, seats also present during the tours sponsored by Pepsi Mello Mayo Lite Mountain Mixx.

Acsat pairs looking for repeat victory in Petron beach volley

ALBAY CITY—IF SOUNDS AND LOOKS LIKE ACsat marks a second straight leg of the other Petron Palms Beach Volleyball Tournament, crown of the troops that reckoned at the Rapid Indoor Center Bicol, Manila.

Acsat and Head two entrance the April 20-21 meet to boost the school's name matches has participating had studied of be the pair of Marina Rose Ivarra and Jennifer Patiño.

Team and Rapid boosted the star of Rosemarie Barraga and Rosanna Fabros of Silliman College to take the first legs at the Dasmariñas Country Club in Cavite, Pampanga last January.

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9th TBAM Classic

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

	DATE	10:00 AM	2:30 pm	7:00 pm
Day 1	Friday	April 20	R/D/S/A/B/C	R/D/S/A/B/C
Day 2	Saturday	April 21	R/D/S/A/B/C	R/D/S/A/B/C
Day 3	Sunday	April 22	R/D/S/A/B/C	R/D/S/A/B/C

Finals will be on April 23, First Shots at 12:00 pm, Second Shots at 6:00 pm.

For inquiries, please text or call Tina Villalon at 09175799-3976

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Trans Sport Show opens

TRANS SPORT SHOW 2007, the country's most prestigious and longest running annual motoring event, formally opens to the public Wednesday, April 18 at SM Megamall B, Unit 3A-gas Center, Mandaluyong City. Special guests during the show cutting ceremonies are Pres. Miguel Zubiri, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Jr. and Mayor Lito Atienza. The show opens daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. until April 22.

Trans Sport Show has always been the harbinger for our automotive offerings to come in the succeeding months," said Trans Sport Show Chairman Jose Ma. Concepcion III.

SUMMER KICKS

Get off on the right foot with the nationwide program of PBA's summer sports clinic the vacation. Conducted by highly trained professionals using internationally accredited programs, the basketball clinic develops basic character-forming values such as discipline, wellness and fair play.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous
to your health.

Torre stuns US GM

Pinoy breathing down RP Open leaders' necks

TORRE

Torre, at 55 still the country's most trusted player in the international scene, parlayed a slight positional advantage into a stunning triumph over the higher-rated Abraham, a 32 moves of the addicts used Lenzier System.

It was the first time that Torre used the London opening in his long and storied career and it paid off handsomely, catapulting him to the company of three highly rated Chinese—GMs Bu Xiangzhi, Zhang Zhong and Zhao Jun—in the 10-player $40,000 tournament.

The win moved Torre within half a point of top seed GM Wang Yue and Li Chao, both of China, going into the second-to-last round last Tuesday.

Wang outplayed erstwhile co-leader GM Zhao Zhong Shipboard of host, while Li beat compatriot GM Wang Hao.

Ni Hua drew with Zhang Zhong, while Zhao Jun overwhelmed Singapore based Grandmaster Julio Catalino Sadorra.

Five other Filipinos—GMs Rogelio Antonio Jr and Mark Paragua, IM Oliver Dimakiling, FM Rolly Nardico and Enrico Fernandez—also made their presence felt to stave off elimination.

Nardico (No 203?) drew with fellow GM Susanto Megarezy, while Paragua halved the point with GM Cruz Adams to lead an 11-man group with 6 points.

OVERCOMING BALDNESS

THINK-A-HEAD

No man likes losing hair. He may try to ignore it, but deep inside, there's a nagging feeling that his hair has been certain. Why me? Why have I gone bald when my friends haven't? Many men sadly accept looking older, being called "Baldie," feeling out as alternative to the opposite sex and putting up with the other hardships baldness brings – both socially and career wise.

Other men refuse to accept baldness and look for a way out – this is where a wrong decision can lead to an even worse state of frustration and despair. Before you do anything about baldness, read the answers to these most asked questions.

Q. I DON'T LIKE BEING BALD – WHAT CAN I DO?

A. There are basically two ways to go. Some men opt for a surgical hair transplant. Others let the non-surgical alternative. When making the decision there's one essential rule: THINK-A-HEAD! – it's not only the immediate results that are so important, it's what your head is going to look like in a few years.

Q. OK, SO WHAT ABOUT SURGICAL TRANSPLANTS?

A. Some say transplants have come a long way since the early days, others say they haven't come far enough. Basically, the surgical process involves taking donor hair from elsewhere on the recipient's head and transplanting it to the balding areas.

Q. DOES TRANSPLANTED HAIR CONTINUE TO GROW?

A. If the surgery has been performed well, the transplanted hair will continue to grow, as it did before it was moved.

Q. CAN ANY BALD MAN HAVE A TRANSPLANT?

A. It's not really possible for a man with advanced baldness because he simply would not have sufficient donor hair to cover his large bald area. Transplants do not increase the number of hairs on a man's head, it's just a case of redistributing them. Transplants are excellent for filling in receding areas or adding extra hair to thinning parts where there is not expected to be further baldness.

Q. ARE THERE ANY PROBLEMS WITH TRANSPLANTS?

A. For men whose baldness will not advance further, there seems little downside to having a transplant.

Q. BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF I CONTINUE TO GO BALD?

A. For those whose baldness continues to advance, there can be significant problems. While the transplanted hair will carry on growing, its other hair becomes thin in contrast as he progressively goes bald. He can have further transplants, but it's likely donor hair will become insufficient as the donor areas do not re-grow hair. The result might be patches of thicker-growing hair among thinning and sparse hair – and this won't take long to happen. The unsightly old appearance of the man's head can cause him further embarrassment and stress. Speed of baldness varies, but for most it takes just a few short years from thinning to full-blown baldness.

If a man suffers from Male Pattern Baldness, which usually strikes when he's in his early twenties or thirties, his baldness will likely continue until he's bald. This is where the catchphrase THINK-A-HEAD comes into play. Think what your head will look like in a few years after surgical transplanting – will you want to go out in public?

Q. I DON'T WANT THAT RISK, SO WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?

A. The non-surgical alternative is TCR or Transdermal Cosmetic Reconstruction. It's a super-fine synthetic stain with hair sizes to be actually growing hairs it, which is then bonded to your scalp.

Q. IS TCR FOR ANYONE, NO MATTER HOW BALD HE MIGHT BE?

A. Yes, this advanced system is ideal for any state of baldness and baldness, even for those with only a small amount of hair at the back and sides – the sort of baldness which is really not suitable for a transplant.

Q. HOW REAL IS TCR, WILL IT LOOK GENUINE?

A. TCR is real, natural hair, which looks and feels as if it's growing from your scalp. TCR cannot be distinguished from your own hair, even by touching. You are not "wearing" it, it's part of you.

Q. DOES TCR REQUIRE SPECIAL CARE?

A. To keep TCR perfect, you need only visits to the stylist every two or three weeks, just as any man does for the cutting and styling of his hair. As you get older, your TCR can be subtly aged and greyed, just as your full head of hair would have looked had you not lost any.

Q. IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE – WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?

A. There are no problems. You can do anything with TCR, it's your new full head of hair. It looks totally natural on your head – you're not aware of it. The only times you'll be reminded that you're no longer bald is when you look in the mirror and how others react to you – remember, you're going to look years younger!

Q. IS TCR AVAILABLE IN MANILA?

A. Yes, it's available in Manila at Swenson, the hair replacement specialists.

Q. IS TCR SUITABLE FOR ME?

A. To find out if your scalp condition and skin type are suitable for the TCR procedure, book a no-cost TCR hair finding consultation by calling 892-4347.

Pangilinan nominates Gregorio to key SBP post

By Jaccinto W. Paya and June Navarro

SENATOR KOMMISSIONER DICK GREGORIO looms as the frontrunner for the post of Senatorial Basketball ng Pilipinas (SBP) executive director, if only for the person who nominated him.

"I received a call from Mr. Johnny Vi Pangilinan] he told me I will be nominated," Gregorio told the Inquirer yesterday.

The development, which the business broke Monday night overbody by current man Pangilinan, the SBP president, has been tight lipped on the candidacy.

Meanwhile, Gregorio's friend of Pembroke mush Ryan and Allan Gregorio, an assistant manager at BCCI and at Bridget King at the PBL, has already been given his initial assignment.

"Mr. Pangilinan asked me to help him review the organization, the plans and the programs," said Gregorio.

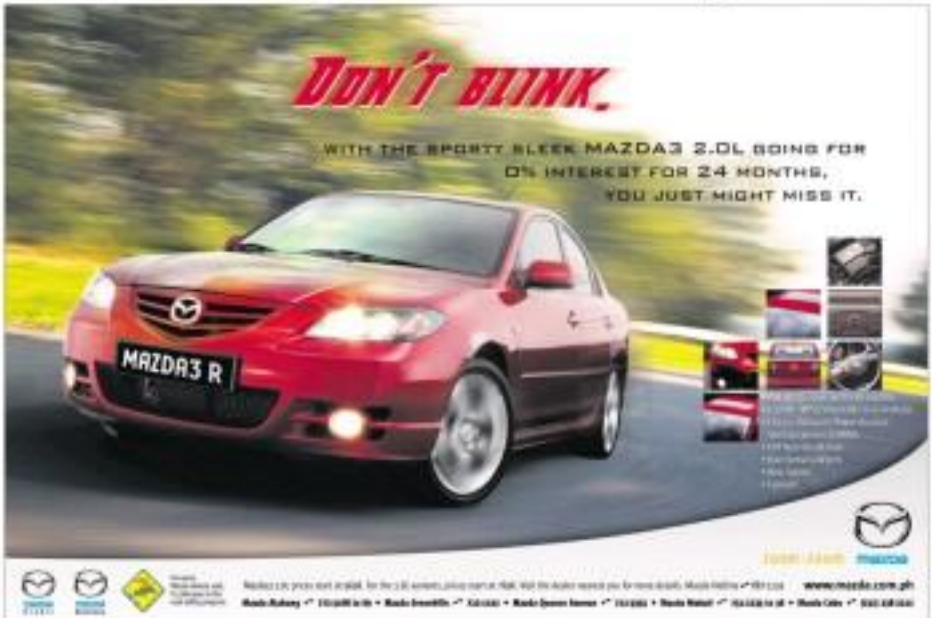
Gregorio, the chief marketing officer of Allstarsl, represented the PLDT chair in yesterday's OIC opening, which I defeated Gilbert was honored for logging the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) Championship Cup, the country's first international men under Pangilinan's watch.

But he refused to say that the tie is cast.

"Haven't no appointment yet," said the 39-year old boasting chair of the Cebu Pacific and Corporation Bureau. "I will still go through the nomination process."

In 2003, Gregorio was chosen as one of in his Outstanding Young Men.

"He's a strong candidate," said SBP vice-chair and PBA chair Richy Regis.



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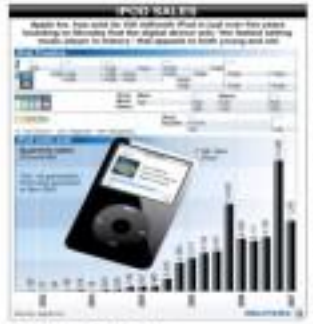

Road improvement, environment protection

By Doris C. Dumlao

WASHINGTON DC—THE WORLD BANK IS FINALIZING TWO new loans totaling $250 million to assist the Philippines in upgrading its national roads and in boosting capacity to manage environmental projects.

World Bank country director Joachim von Amsberg, who had meetings with Finance Secretary Margarito Teves at the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund-World Bank meetings here, said discussions on the $200-million national roads improvement and management project and a $50-million loan for environmental management would soon be concluded.

"We hope to be able to commit these resources before the end of June. Implementation will be some four or five years. Resources will be available as soon as the loans are approved," Von Amsberg said.

The national roads program is the second phase of an ongoing road improvement investment project that combines resources for investment for roads with a component of strong governance and road policy oversight, he said.

The new program targets to upgrade more

THE IMAGING 02

Shares close 1.54% higher

DTI, DBP to ease access to ₱15B in funds

By Reena V. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND Industry and the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines have partnered to ease the access of micro, small and medium enterprises to funds totaling ₱15 billion.

Trade Undersecretary Cetsos C. Evangelista said a memorandum of agreement signed by the two agencies recently ordered participating banks to function as loan facilitators to privatized businesses under the One Town One Product program.

Evangelista said that under the agreement, DBP would evaluate loan applications endorsed by DTI through the Otop program in accordance with standard DBP credit policies and procedures.

DBP would recommend appropriate action either for direct lending or on

BTR 02

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DBCC may scale down target from surplus to a balanced budget by '09

THE INTERAGENCY DEVELOPMENT Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) is mulling over change in the national government's fiscal target, making it down from a budget surplus to a simple zero budget deficit by 2009.

Romulo Neri, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said there was no ongoing debate among DBCC members whether to keep the target of posting a budget surplus two years from now, or just aim for a balanced budget.

The DBCC, the public body that sets the government's economic targets, is composed of officials from the Neda, the Department of Finance, and the Department of Budget and Management. It also has the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) acting as advisory overseer.

"This [move balancing of the budget, instead of posting a surplus] is a contending thought right now in the DBCC," Neri said, "proposed at changing the 2009 target was raised by the Neda and the DBM, which highlighted the need to ease spending for infrastructure development.

Neri, who also serves as economic planning secretary, said there is room for a budget surplus because spending lean on infrastructure and social services. He said that surpluses in the budget should better be used to beef up spending for vital expenditure requirements.

Under the old fiscal program of the national government, it should post a zero budget deficit by 2008, and begin posting a budget surplus afterward. The surplus should be at least P12.14 billion in 2009 and P17.7 billion in 2010.

The DBCC is currently reviewing its macroeconomic and fiscal targets and assumptions for this year and the medium term, a revision, should there be any, is usually announced in the middle of a year.

Last year, the government posted a deficit of only P64.8 billion, lower than the P135-billion ceiling for 2006 and the P146.8 billion recorded the previous year.

The latest close programmed deficit figure has been helped by country's status as a "stable" outlook from credit rating agencies from the previous "negative."

Michelle V. Ramos

Manila Mining cuts losses, sees rosy prospects

By Amy R. Remo

MANILA MINING CORP. REPORTED A NET loss of P12.7 million in 2006, an improvement from the previous year's net loss of P147.4 million, as it was able to "substantially reduce" its liabilities.

Also, through an offer of 1:2 stock rights, Manila Mining was able to raise P899 million, part of which were used to pay major creditors and suppliers.

As of end 2006, Manila Mining's total liabilities stood close to P769 million from the previous year's P1.4 billion.

Felipe U. Yap, chairman and chief executive officer of Manila Mining, however said during the annual stockholders meeting yesterday, that the company is "undermining the year "in a subdued way" for two reasons.

First, Manila Mining has finally obtained its renewed Exploration Permit this January a portion of which would be assigned to its 100 percent owned subsidiary, Kalayaan Copper-Gold Resources Inc.

Second is the signing last March of the Term Sheet Agreement with Anglo Americans through its wholly owned subsidiary, Anglo Investments Plc.

Under the agreement, Anglo will fund the pre-feasibility phase of the Kalayaan project in Antipas del Norte, worth $2.6 million.

This arrangement will allow Anglo to acquire 40 percent equity in Kalayaan Copper-Gold.

Already, Anglo has forwarded $3 million to Manila Mining.

P119B went to debt service in Jan, Feb

By Michelle V. Ramos

Treasury cites declining rate in loan payments since 2004

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SPENT P119.1 billion to pay off maturing debts in January and February this year, an amount representing 73 percent of the total revenue it collected for the period.

This means that, for every peso collected by the government, 73 centavos went to servicing debts. The government's revenue, which includes taxes, reached P162.3 billion in the first two months of the year.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that, of the P119.1 billion spent on debt servicing, principal obligations accounted for P80.036 billion of the total, while the rest went to interest payments.

Based on source of liabilities, P72.06 billion of the total went to cover domestic loans, while P46.240 billion was used to pay off foreign-denominated debts.

The government sources the money it uses to pay off its debts partly from the taxes collected from the public and from various revenues, such as proceeds of privatization of state assets.

Ever since revenue collection is not enough to service all its maturing debts, and every other expenses—such as salaries of state workers, infrastructure and social services—the government engages in fresh borrowings to pay old and maturing debts, and fund other expenditure requirements.

Fiscal authorities said that while the amount spent on debt service in January and February was huge, it already marked a stark improvement from the previous years' budget allocated for debts.

In 2004, the government spent over 80 centavos out of every peso it collected to service debts.

Also, the amount that went to debt service in the first two months of the year was 16.6 percent lower than the P142.9 billion spent during the same period last year.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the year-on-year drop in the amount allocated for debt servicing was due to the decline in the government's outstanding debt and lower rate of borrowings.

"We continued to limit our borrowings," Cruz said. "With a much reduced debt stock, the amount of debt servicing naturally comes down."

And because the annual deficit is falling, the government's requirement for borrowing is also dropping, thus ensuring growth in the outstanding debt. The deficit seized at only P64.8 billion last year from the P146.8 billion in 2005.

Lower interest rates allow government to borrow at less cost, while appreciation of the local currency makes foreign-denominated debts cheaper to pay off.

Government simulations showed that a slight appreciation of the peso reduces the national government's outstanding debt by P50.1 billion, and allows it to pay P4.2 billion less for debt servicing.

The Arroyo administration's economic managers cited the improvement in the country's fiscal condition and macroeconomic environment for the falling interest rates and strengthening of the peso.

The government's outstanding debt, which stood at 55.07% as of end-January, was a result of huge budget deficits in the past, which forced authorities to engage in heavy borrowing.

AFP should fight wherever enemy goes

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Manuel C. Garcia

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE Philippines (AFP) has been fighting the longest-running communist insurgency in Southeast Asia.

Now, the AFP has expanded the list of its by sending patrols through some of the streets of Metro Manila. This battle has been severely criticized.

But it is ridiculous for critics to say that AFP patrols in Metro Manila's streets of the Marcos martial law regime. Marcos imposed martial law purportedly to protect and defend the country against Communism. This is why he jailed Aquino, Jaime Ongpin—and Diokno—among many other communists.

But the real purpose for the presence of military units, such as those at checkpoints, in Metro Manila during those martial law years, was to keep the dictator in power. It stood army (Constabulary) under the Tabak Division) was stationed in nearby Mendiola as the back and all of Chief of Staff, General Ileto.

You got beside-ready in the morning, because during Communists a threat, you could not get home on time on night; he decided to check in at a hotel. And if your phone rang in the middle of the night, you did not want to answer because it might be a call from the military.

It is also ridiculous to claim those AFP patrols in Metro Manila to the notorious Japanese Occupation forces in World War II. I was in my late teens at that time. I knew what life was like then. If you were a Kempeitai (military police) soldier, duty at night, harassed property, or you got yelled at, if you hesitated in questioning.

The Japanese Occupation was short terror, all pervasive and overpowering. In my hometown Naga City, we knew when the torture chambers and the killing fields were. To this day, the remains of unknown victims are buried at the backs of Rizal de Naga University, which the Japanese used as their Headquarters. The Avoda hotel doubled as a torture chamber.

My mother survived the war, but she was a casualty just the same. The strain of raising a family under severe wartime conditions (Japanese troops were staying in the houses next door to our home) was too much for her frail body. After the war, she had to file for early retirement from government service at age 55.

I am truly convinced that the head of the CSCP Archbishop Legaspi, has complained about the AFP patrols in Metro Manila. I pray the good prelate never more discovering and experience.

By the way, haven't you noticed that those tanks are blocking do not lies to the areas patrolled by the AFP?

The US and the European Union (EU) have tagged the NPA as a terrorist organization. So much, the Philippine government and any of its agencies, especially the AFP, cannot negotiate with the NPA.

You do not negotiate with terrorists. This is the policy of democratic nations worldwide against terrorist organizations.

So, long as the NPA wages its futile guerrilla war in the mountains, the AFP can chase them there. But, if the NPA engages in urban warfare, the AFP should change the enemy wherever he is found—in Manila streets, Makati, if needed.

I am glad the AFP is now pulling its patrols out of Metro Manila. Let us wish our troops success. "Undisputed"

WB readies 2 loans worth $250M for RP

From page B1

roads for every poor spots, reduce corruption risks and involve civil society in the process of procurement.

The first phase of the National Roads Improvement and Management Project (NRIMP-1) was approved by the World Bank under a 30-year loan agreement in 2000. NRIMP was intended to be a nine-year program of assistance for the road sector.

He said the roads program would finance major road maintenance work on the larger highway and also contribute to the road users fund.

"That's an interesting proposal because one of the key elements is control of corruption risk," Wes Armbrust said.

Asked if the Philippine civil society would participate in reducing corruption in the road sector, he said those organizations would be given access to pertinent information and experts would be hired to advise on transparency and the quality of procurement.

"The problems that people have found on the road sector in many countries around the world including in the Philippines—mainly collusion among bidders—are usually hard to find as you need people who are trained in analyzing procurement documents," he said.

A civil society participating in Roadwatch, he added, could help the Philippine government in the procurement process as well as improving the quality of roads built or upgraded.

"That ensures an environment where it's more difficult to do the wrong things," Wes Armbrust said. "Road building and maintenance is one of the most corruption prone activities anywhere in the world, so we're trying to learn what works in other countries so it's good to have that interest from government to have that special arrangement," he said.

The environmental loan worth $16 million, on the other hand, supports specific investment projects but like a program loan, it links the entire budget in a prudent management of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"We're trying to help DENR focus on how best watersheds and above it ensure better management of the resources management," he said.

DTI, DBP ease access to P15B in funds

From page B1

document to accredited or institutions or conduit organizations engaged in wholesale lending, she explained.

DBP would allow on-lease funds on approved projects to either the proponents or conduit institutions, she added.

On the other hand, loans that were earned down would be endorsed to DBP Business Assistance Centers for re-evaluation.

To make the loan facilities more easier, the MOA also provides that DBP would help DTI-endorsed Drug proponents in complying with all applicable loan requirements such as filing up the confidential information sheet and the customer's information report.

DBP will also provide loan assistances—such as common services facility, road networks and infrastructure to financing training centers—as local government units that support the provisions.

For its part, the cluster department would endorse Drug projects as well as individual MSME operators to DBP for possible funding assistance based on pre-determined risk acceptance criteria.

Before endorsement to DBP, DTI would assess the creditability of the borrower and its completion and implementation.

The DTI would also give DBP managers hands-on training in areas such as project identification, business diagnosis, market matching, and preparation of financial statements to DTI-SME Centers.

Evangelista, who is also national manager of the Drug program, said the DTI was bargaining the expertise of DBP to ensure that MSMEs get much needed financial support in their livelihood ventures.

"We are thankful that DBP has thrown its support to the Drug program for rural development," she said. "Through Drug, we aim to multiply entrepreneurs in the countryside."

The Drug program offers a comprehensive package through the convergence of services from GOCCs, national government agencies, financing institutions, and the private sector.

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Alaska acquires 3 milk brands from Nestlé S.A.

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

ALASKA MILK CORP. SAID YESTERDAY it has bought three Philippine-registered liquid milk trademarks from Swiss company Nestec dos Perutnas Strada S.A.

Alaska added that it has been granted the license by Strada to import, manufacture, distribute and sell in the Philippines two other liquid milk product brands—Carnation and Milkmaid.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Alaska said it bought the Alpine, Liberty and Bear-cup brands from Strada.

Alaska corporate secretary Sonia go Pedro said Alaska bought into these strong liquid milk brands to complement Alaska's own liquid milk line.

Alaska manufactures evaporated filled milk and sweetened condensed filled milk in cans, the first generation Alaska milk products introduced in the Philippine market since 1972. These products are used primarily in cooking and baking ingredients.

The latest addition to the liquid canned milk portfolio is the Alaska Evaporado, an evaporated creamer launched in early 2007 to complement another brand, the Alaska Condensada, and to complete Alaska's liquid canned milk line. These two Alaska products are used primarily for cooking and baking and are targeted especially for the price-conscious consumers.

Alaska recently reported that its net income in 2006 grew 34 percent to P489 million from P368 million in 2005.

Revenues grew 9 percent to P5.9 billion in 2006 from P5.4 billion in 2005, lifted by higher sales volume across its portfolio.

Retail grocery consumption of evaporated, condensed and powdered milk in 2006 declined 11 percent year on year. The market's contraction was pinned to the general slowdown in consumer spending in the first half of the year, brought by the imposition of the expanded value-added tax law and higher oil prices.

The evaporated milk category mildly recovered in the fourth quarter due to the double-digit expansion of the creamer segment. The company said sales volume of the liquefied canned milk business posted strong double-digit growth, driven by the performances of Alaska Evaporada and Alaska Condensada in the economy market.

Filinvest Land posts 40% profit jump

FILINVEST LAND INC., THE REAL estate arm of the Gotianun family, reported a 40-percent jump in net income to P810 million in 2006 from P583 million in 2005 due to an increase in real estate sales and rental income from its newly acquired office and mall assets.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), FLI said its gross profit rose 27 percent to P1.3 billion while rental revenue surged by 2,800 percent as a result of the revenues generated by Southgate Cyberzone, Festival Supermall and PBCom Tower, which were acquired by FLI in September last year. These offices and malls contributed P205 million in rental revenues in the fourth quarter of 2006.

FLI expects these retail and office developments to contribute fully to revenues beginning this year.

Total gross revenues rose 21 percent year-on-year to P3.4 billion last year from P2.8 billion in 2005. With the injection of the commercial and office assets into the company, total consolidated assets of FLI as of Dec. 31 increased by 43 percent to P68.8 billion from P48.2 billion in 2005, while stockholders' equity expanded 61 percent to P29.2 billion from P18 billion. FLI also said it maintained a strong financial position, ending the year with cash worth P489 million and a low debt-to-equity ratio of 24 percent.

"With the very successful follow-on offering of the company in the first quarter of 2007, FLI raised P5.9 billion in first-track development of the targeted projects in our development pipeline," FLI president Joseph Yap said.

For 2007, FLI has budgeted P5 billion in capital expenditures, of which P3.7 billion will be for residential development and P1.3 billion for office development.

FLI has lined up four new projects scheduled for launch all over the country in 2007.

The socialized residential segment will launch Sunrise Place and Westwood Meadows in Cavite. The middle-income housing is set to launch Auburn Place in Biñan, Laguna; The Glens in San Pedro, Laguna; Exodus in Cebu and West Palms in Puerto Princesa.

The debut into the newest phase of residential and campus development Innerville International also in Laguna, will be launched in the second quarter of 2007.

FLI is also broadening its market reach by launching new products in major urban areas. One of the major projects to be launched in 2007 is the Grand Genia, a residence in Cebu. The 16-story project will have three floors for commercial and business process outsourcing (BPO) offices. Meanwhile, Ohio Oasis is a complex of nine 5-story residential medium-rise buildings in Pasig City and is easily accessible to malls, schools and other institutions.

Kembali Coast on Samal Island, Davao, is a beachfront residential resort development. The 10-hectare Asian-Balinese-inspired island getaway offers low-density exclusivity and comes with a 1.6-km beach fronted offers unobstructed views of the sea.

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DISCLOSURES

MA. LOURDES de Guzman has resigned as vice president of the listed-trusted organization division of the Philippine Stock Exchange Inc. effective May 1, 2007.

PRIMEX Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 18, 2007, 2 p.m. at the Pasig Sandiganbayan of the Metropolitan Country Club, Mandaluyong City. Stockholders of record as of April 30, 2007 are entitled to vote.

ENERGENESIS will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 29, 2007, 2 p.m. at the Tower Ballroom in Hotel Ortigas Center, Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of April 11, 2007 are entitled to vote. Proxies in the meeting. *Compiled by Lawrence Jo Guerrero, Inquirer research*

Shares . . .

From page B1

There were 84 advancers and 70 decliners with 62 unchanged.

Shares totaled 3.30 billion shares worth P6.20 billion.

"Wall Street's mildly provided a boost, and investors have been begun taking positions ahead of the first-quarter corporate results," said Arturo del Castillo of First Grade Holdings Inc.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas announced Monday that cash remittances in February by Filipino workers abroad rose 23.4 percent year-on-year to $1.2 billion.

Economic managers also forecast the economy to grow by up to 7 percent in 2007, above the government's target of 6.1-6.7 percent, if programmed infrastructure projects this year are completed. AFP

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DOE lays down rules on oil contract farm-ins

By Abigail L. Ho

TO PREVENT UNQUALIFIED FIRMS from getting their hands on petroleum service contracts, the Department of Energy has issued guidelines governing the transfer of interests, rights and obligations in such contracts.

Under Department Circular No. 2007-04-0003, companies hoping to farm-in contracts should not only have the financial muscle to undertake such capital-intensive activities as exploration and development of petroleum blocks, but should also have the necessary technical expertise and experience.

They should also be legally qualified to enter into petroleum service contracts, the circular said.

The circular also said that no transfer of petroleum service contract rights or obligations could take place without the DOE's approval.

In the case of a right and obligation transfer to an affiliate of a qualified contract holder, the affiliate should have the same level of financial, legal and technical qualifications as the "transferor" or "assignor."

The affiliate relationship should also be maintained during the life of the service contract, the DOE circular said.

"While transfers and assignments are effective arrangements to pool financial resources and technical expertise in conducting petroleum exploration, development and production projects, given the huge investments and technical expertise required, there has to be transparency both in acquiring and approving requests for the so-called farm-ins of participating interests," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said.

The circular also sought to prevent service contractors from assigning their rights and obligations immediately after the execution of the service contract.

The Supreme Court's declaration in 2006 of the constitutionality of the Mining Act resulted in the search of at least 20 service contracts as of December 2006, involving some $750 million in committed financial investments.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The CAR/RFU NO. 1 of AGRICULTURE-REGIONAL FIELD UNIT-CAR, through its duly constituted Regional Tender Board (RTB), invites qualified contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for any or all of the hereunder contract(s):

Lot	Name of the Contract	ABC
Lot 1 (Phase 1 of Infrastructure Project)	Supply of Organic Fertilizer, Bokashi Fertilizer, for purposes of the Cordillera Organic Village	Php[illegible]
Lot 2 (Phase 1 of Infrastructure Project)	Supply, Delivery, delivered and Operational and Purpose of Power Tiller for purposes of the Cordillera Organic Village	Php[illegible]
Lot 3 (Phase 1 of Infrastructure Project)	Supply of Various Kinds of Vegetable Seeds, Bulbs of Onions, Bell Pepper, Carrots, Potato, Regular Fee	Php[illegible]

Prospective bidders may be pre-qualified for bidding or bidder project and/or after bidding. Bidders shall be prequalified on an Open Basis. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the forms and amount stipulated in the bidding documents.

All prospective bidders are hereby invited to attend the Pre-bid Conference on [illegible] at the Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DA-CAR Compound, Kumintl, Baguio City.

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Request from the Cordillera Workers to collect bidding documents	[illegible]
2. Deadline of Submission and Eligibility Forms	April 30 - April 30, 2007
3. Pre-Bid Conference Lot 1 Lot 2 Lot 3	April 30, 2007 at 9:00 - 10:00 AM at the RFU-1 Conf. Hall April 30, 2007 at 10:30 - 11:30 AM at the RFU-1 Conf. Hall April 30, 2007 at 1:30 PM at the RFU-1 Conf. Hall
4. Receipt & Opening of Bids Lot 1 Lot 2 Lot 3	May 7, 2007 at 9:00 AM at the RFU-1 Conf. Hall May 7, 2007 at 10:30 AM at the RFU-1 Conf. Hall May 7, 2007 at 1:30 PM at the RFU-1 Conf. Hall

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents to prospective bidders upon payment to a non-refundable amount stipulated in the amount (25%) of one percent (1%) of the ABC to the RFU-CAR Cashier.

The RFU-CAR is not responsible for any loss or expenses incurred by a bidder in connection with the preparation and submission of its bid. Bids submitted late will not be accepted.

[illegible]
Chairman, RTB

(PC, Apr 9 & 16, 2007)

BUSINESS

Gov't targets P40B for small, medium firms

Stung by study saying RP SMEs 'least competitive' in Asia

By Nina T. Chikiamco

THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO increase loans to small- and medium-scale enterprises by 25 percent this year to P40 billion under the SME Unified Lending Opportunities for Sustained Growth (Sulong) program.

Small Business Corp. president and COO Jesse Lagsa said SB Corp. would contribute P4 billion worth to the effort, up from P3.2 billion last year.

The balance will come from other government financial institutions, such as Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines.

Lagsa said the SMEs urgently needed help, especially in the light of the 2007 UP Asia Institute Monitor, which said that Philippine SMEs were "the least competitive" in the Asia-Pacific region for the third straight year.

[See In favor of five Philippine companies]

respondents expressed their lack of confidence in the competitiveness of local small and medium-scale firms.

About one in three also expressed pessimism over their country's economic growth prospects.

The chapter 69 percent of the respondents saying that their own companies would grow over the next 12 months.

The Filipinos were next only to Indians (89 percent) and the Chinese (79 percent) in terms of confidence.

"We should take the results as a challenge, and we could take advantage of the fact that we are weaker (in scale by) starting our projects. We do have lending programs available to help SMEs," Lagsa said.

The Sulong program is the financing initiative under the SME Development Plan 2004-2010, and is a collaboration among seven government financing institutions.

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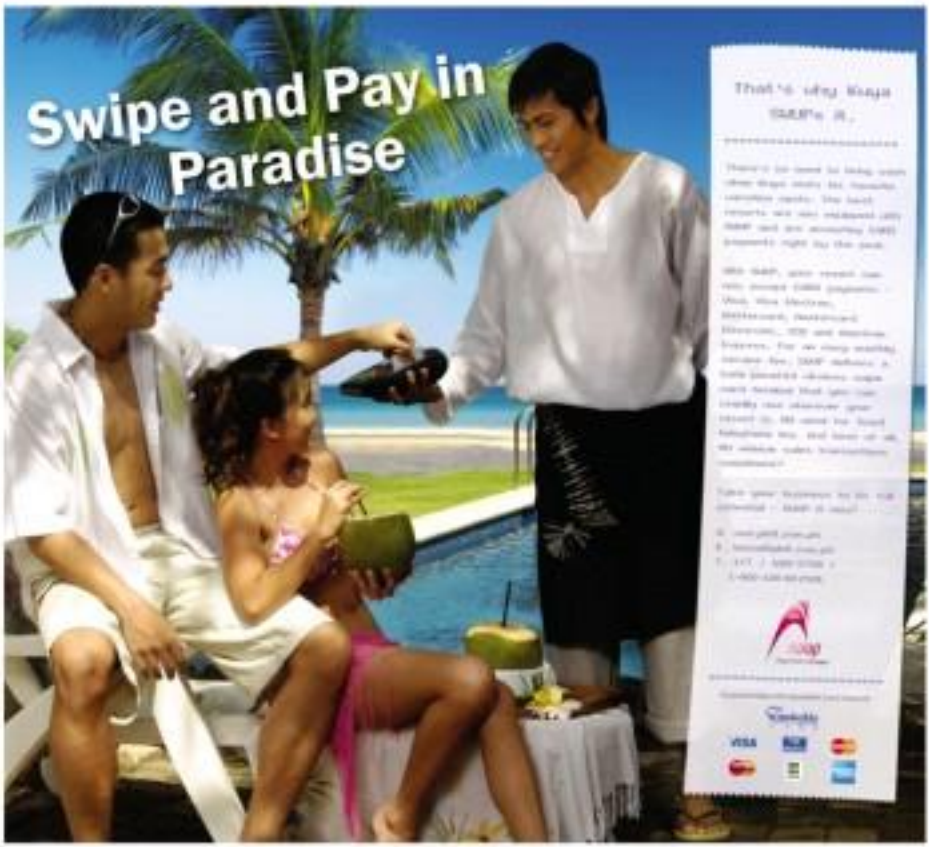

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MOTORING

We'll help you learn.

Possibilities endless for this see-through car

By Charles E. Bolan

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REGARD concept cars as more than just "racer science experiments" or race-looking displays. More often, auto designers use them to test or forthcoming trends for their products.

The Glasik is no different. This odd looking car from Rinspeed, a Swiss-based automotive design house, represents a serious study into the use of new materials for car construction.

Making its first public appearance at the Geneva Motor Show in Switzerland (held last month) the vRasik was developed to mark the 20th anniversary of Rinspeed as well as celebrate the anniversary of the world's first-ever plastic car built by pharmaceutical/chemical giant Bayer in 1965.

"Rinspeed provided the car-building know-how while Bayer, particularly Bayer MaterialScience AG, supplied the high-tech plastic called Makrolon polycarbonate. Thanks to this material, the designers were able to come up with a full transparent body that allows viewers to see details inside the car as well as providing the vRasik an almost surreal appearance," described Cedi Cernadas, Bayer Philippines corporate communications officer.

THE EXASIS' transparent shell gives it an other-worldly feel.

Unique character

Indeed, Makrolon gave the vRasik its unique character. Because the material is found all over the car's structure—from the outer shell to the seats and to the gauges—the designers were able to shave the weight, which had a huge impact on its performance.

The vRasik is powered by a relatively small 75-hp, turbocharged 1-liter, 66-horsepower, 4-cylinder engine that puts out a rather healthy 150 horsepower.

Combine this with the car's 750 kg weight, the vRasik has the ability to go from 0 to 100 kph in just 4.0 seconds and attain a top speed of 230 kph, a performance that would race a Porsche sports car.

Altogether these figures give plenty of reasons to expect the hassle of driving fun this car would give and the manufacturing visionary technologies and innovations it present the automotive industry," Cernadas said.

Other features

"Materials has other features aside from its light weight and being transparent. It's also scratch-resistant so it provided the designers freedom to create even the most daredevil shapes and contours (as seen in the car's luxurious rear contours in the seats) to the chassis.

He added that Makrolon also offers toughness that provides ample protection for vRasik occupants as well as overall stability of the car.

"Indeed, we see how plastic materials have come a long way since Bayer presented its all-plastic car at the IAC Plastics Fair in Germany 40 years ago. With today's generation of plastics, auto designers are able to exploit its qualities in order to create unique automotive concepts that goes beyond the design specs of our designs," Cernadas said.

THE EXASIS is a collaboration between Rinspeed, which provided the car-making know-how and Bayer, which provided the high-tech Macrolon polycarbonate.

INSPIRING

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PATROL

SHIFT the future NISSAN

Blown tires
can wreck your new car

By Tessa R. Salazar

IF YOU THINK HAVE A SPANKING new car and a flawlessly paved road up ahead will spare you tire troubles, think again.

A quick data check on the numbers and type of vehicular accidents and breakdowns occurring on the North Luzon Expressway shows that even new vehicles are victims of blowouts...even on the stretch of one of the best paved highways in the country. And one major cause of blowouts is a tweaked tire. To some, delicate matters, some motorists have even failed to bring along spare tires and tools.

Not losing a road nuisance

Aside from avoiding unequal tires, here are some tips on how not to be a road nuisance.

Staying away from the scrapped tires is a simple solution that history (cause of Yellow Cadbury Concept) has often to avoid blowouts. According to him, scrapped tires may be deceivingly cheap and every kilometer you use them brings you a kilometer closer to a potential blowout.

But even top-of-the-line tires may sometimes not be spared from flats. Nails and other sharp objects on the road can penetrate brand-new tires deep in mind, your tires are pounding the road at forces relative to the speed and weight of your car).

And tires have shelf lives, too. Like non-rotary tires are good for five years before the rubber begins to deteriorate and crack. Prior to the vague date of whether the tire is being used or not. That means, even spare tires "grow old" (especially spares since they are exposed to elements...those that are fitted outside of the car body). Unsure advises car owners to keep in mind the manufacturing or purchase date of their tires, especially the spares.

Unsure says the rate of tire deterioration depends on the brand; some tires tend to "crack" earlier than others. He adds that it would be wise to preventive your tire to the maximum allowable (check your manual or ask your mechanic) if you will be traveling with a full load to protect your tires and tires from getting damaged. Have your first wheels aligned while you're at it.

Other car-care tips include checking the tire rod as well as cleaning and properly positioning stainless air valves. It is always said that you should be able to see at least 200 feet behind you with the mirrors, and you should see oncoming vehicles on the side, and not just at the rear of your vehicle.

Helpful tire-care tips

Michelin also provides simple but helpful tire-care tips:

• **Set tires to the right pressure.** Owners should follow the recommended air pressure from the vehicle manufacturer as listed on a sticker located on the vehicle's door jamb, glove box door or in the owner's manual.

• **Check tire tread depth.** If tread depth is less than 3 mm, it's time to buy new tires.

• **Inspect tires monthly.** Knowing what to look for is only useful if you actually take the time to look. Get in the habit of frequently inspecting tires for proper inflation, damage or wear. If something doesn't look right, take your car to a tire dealer for closer inspection.

• **Replace tires properly.** If you only replace two tires at a time, mount them on the rear axle. Otherwise, your car could lose rear traction in the rain and spin out.

• **Proper alignment is important.** Have your car's suspension realigned when you buy new tires, if you notice uneven wear or if it has been a while since your last alignment. A suspension that is not aligned properly can wear out your tires after only a few thousand kilometers and adversely affect fuel consumption.

Finally, whether you have a brand-new car (expensive tires) or not, one accessory should always be kept on mind: Blowbags. This refers to 8-at-ery, L-ight, O-il, W-ater, S-tire, A-ir in Tire, E-ar and S-crewdriver. It could spell the difference between coming back to one piece or forever resting in peace.

Toyota announces new G-Book mX telematics service

TOKYO—TOYOTA MOTOR CORP. HAS announced that it will begin rolling out its next G-Book mX telematics service (and e-G-Book mX-compatible SUZUKI navigation system with the launch of new vehicles in Japan starting in May.

G-Book mX builds on the proven reliability and security of G-Book with the addition of Map on Demand—the world's first technology for automatically delivering differential map data to car navigation systems—to create a more user friendly and comprehensive telematics service. The new G-Book includes data from other vehicles equipped with G-Book mX to provide drivers with highly precise information on traffic congestion.

This new service is available in two easily customize. G-Book mX, which comes as standard with the new compatible HDD navigation system and is free, and G-Book mX Pro, which is a fee-based service requiring an optional data communication module (DCM). In addition to the standard services available with G-Book mX, G-Book mX Pro features additional services, such as a security service and operator service.

G-Book features

Here are some of the new G-Book features available with G-Book mX:

• **Map on Demand.** This service delivers updated navigation maps through a network covering expressways and toll roads throughout the country as well as ordinary roads near the driver's home and in the vicinity of a driver's intended destination. With G-Book mX, drivers can download updated map data at the touch of a button by connecting their cell phones to the compatible navigation system. With G-Book mX Pro, the optional DCM performs automatic, constant updates of map data. In the case of expressways and toll roads, updated data are sent out approximately seven days after a new interchange is opened.

• **Probe Communication Traffic information.** This unique Toyota traffic information service gathers driving data—such as speed and position—from vehicles equipped with G-Book mX to provide drivers with information regarding traffic congestion. Because it makes use of the on-board DCM, the information gathering capability of this service is superior to similar systems, which rely solely on cell phones, and efficiently shares information about traffic congestion in real time in the G-Book system. In this way the Probe Communication Traffic information service supplements Vehicle Information and Communication System (VICS) information with updates on traffic congestion, providing drivers with highly precise predictions about the current traffic situation and suggestions for the best alternate routes to take.

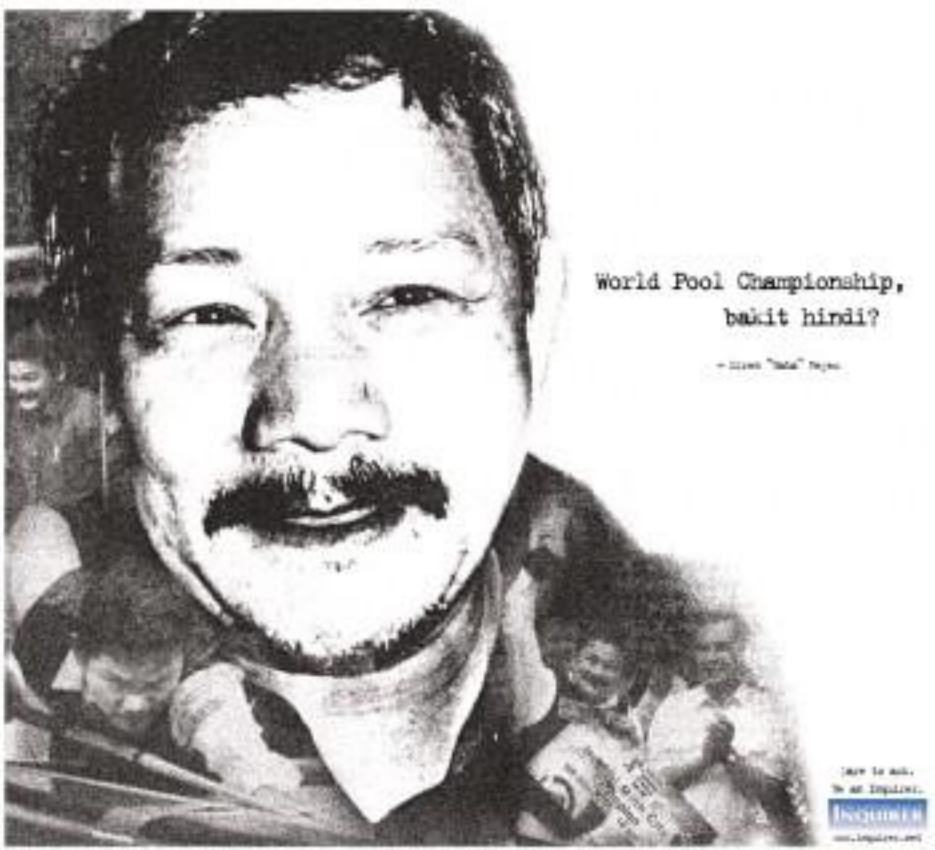
• **Wireless Audio with Bluetooth.** The new compatible navigation systems will be equipped with a Bluetooth ID profile that allows users to connect wirelessly to cell phones and portable audio devices in order to play music via their car's audio system. Compared to connecting via an FM transmitter, the new system delivers wireless playback with much clearer sound quality when making some interference and sound distortion.

G-Sound Capsule is a music package added to G-Sound, which uses part of G-Book Alpha. In addition to 900 individual songs, 100 capsules of 800 songs will be preinstalled in the cross-compatible navigation system, and by downloading a required code key (sent via Japan) signing them straight away. Of the songs included, 140 classical tracks can be accessed for free.

• **Error operator service.** G-Book mX will make it possible to request an operator to provide the optimal route to a destination, using Probe Communication Traffic Information as a function known as G-Route Search. Customers will be able to connect to the operator from their vehicle at the touch of a button, making it even easier for people to use this popular operator service.

• Helpnet as standard. With the current G-Book Alpha service, only customers who pay a service fee can use Helpnet, an emergency notification system that contacts police and fire departments at the event of a traffic accident or medical emergency and requests dispatch emergency vehicles for dispatched. However, owners of G-Book mX-compatible navigation systems will have free Helpnet access for the first three years following new vehicle registration. From the fourth year on, vehicle owners will be able to continue to use Helpnet by paying a registration fee once every two years.

• **Map upgrade notification service.** A new service will be launched covering Nagoya, Osaka, Hiroshima and the 23 wards of Tokyo, as of spring 2007) to alert drivers to the presence of an intersection marked with a stop sign, for those intersections that are considered to be particularly dangerous. Furthermore, new vehicle models launched from this summer will be fitted with a function to assist the driver of an approaching stop sign in the event that the driver seems not to be slowing down appropriately.



A PEARL black Grand Livina in Bali

Driving the Grand Livina in Bali

Exclusive

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sorilla-Mendaña

THE DELEGATES OF THE NISSAN GRAND Livina International media tour drive last month started a scenic 200-kilometer route in Bali for motoring journalists from China, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia. The eight-hour drive, with four stops along the way where drivers changed cars or one's changed drivers, allowed us to verify Nissan's claims about the new seven-seater global car that will challenge the Toyota Innova's leadership in the lucrative sport-level multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) market.

At the product design presentation the day before, the key words quoted for the design concept of the Grand Livina were "relax," "comfort," "virtue" and "high quality" as well as "dynamic." Due to its passenger car-based monocoque body, the Grand Livina was touted to provide a driver's comfort akin to ride than the truck-based, chassis-framed Innova. Not to mention the handling and quiet ness of a sedan.

SKYDRIVE top in the steering wheel, wood trim on the dash

Comfort

I was able to check this out during the first two legs of the test drive as one of three passengers in a 1.5-liter automatic transmission (AT) Grand Livina. Going toward the first stop at Gili Antra in Pemuteran (Buul, I sat in the front seat and hardly felt the bumps and potholes that we drove over.

For the 10-km second leg of the test drive from Ubud to Pemtikan Restaurant, I transferred to the back seat since it is in the back seat of any motor vehicle that its ride riding comfort—or discomfort—is felt. The second row of seats in the Grand Livina is not a split bench seat. It is with soft, well upholstered with a backrest that can be reclined so that passengers can kick back and relax.

THE ELEGANT two-tone interior accents

Time is what Nissan's product designers claimed, the ride quality in the back was restful and a notch higher in comfort level than a coach-based MPV's. Credit goes to the common platform that the Grand Livina shares with the Renault Clio plus the same suspension set the Nissan Tiida—MOPshock struts up front and torsion beams in the rear with stabilizers fore and aft.

Advantage

The third row seat in the Grand Livina can accommodate two passengers, but I can't say how comfortable riders I didn't check it out. The advantage of the third row seat is that it can be folded flat forward easily to increase cargo space without having to remove the headrests.

After buffet lunch at Lakeview Restaurant in Kintamani, we switched to a petrol-fueled 1.8 AT Grand Livina and I took the wheel for the 50-km drive to Mengwi, the site of Pura Taman Ayung, the second biggest temple in Bali. We went through narrow, twisting, two-way roads in hilly mountainside. It was a challenge for me since, like all Filipinos, I'm used to driving on the right side of the road, not on the left. But it was such an exhilarating grand tour that I soon focused on as driver for the next leg, 40 km from Mengwi to Gili Antra with its hot terrazzo regrets.

Handling

As a passenger in the 1.5-liter Grand Livina, I noted that the engine accelerated adequately and was not too noisy. The 1.8-liter unit I drove was, naturally, faster and more capable of keeping up with the cruising, having 128 horses but when traffic and road conditions allowed. However, a heavy foot on the gas pedal was required and the engine surged steadily at highway speeds as the 5-speed AT sometimes hunted through the gears.

On the other hand, the handling was as zero and nimble as a car's. Thanks to overall length, lower in ground clearance and weighing less than the 2.6-liter Innova, the Grand Livina has a minimum turning radius of 5.3 meters and offers easier ingress and egress for driver and passengers.

The elegant two-tone interior of the Grand Livina exceeds expectations for the budget MPV class. The steering wheel has all the audio and wood trim. Instrument cluster housing the audio and aircon controls. Although there are no aircon vents at the rear, the air vents on top of the dash are directed at each six angle that cool air reaches all the way to the back.

Target

Safety features include two airbags, ABS with EBD, fog lamps, turn signals integrated in the side mirrors, disc brakes in front with drums at the rear. When Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. launches this new global MPV next year, it will be simply named the Livina and only the 1.8-liter AT variant will be initially available. A CKD, the Livina will not replace the Serena, which is an upscale MPV and CBU. NMPI is targeting 375 units a month or 4,500 in annual sales for the Livina.

Will the car brand, lower-priced Livina outsell the truck-based Innova? Wait till next year to find out.

• • •

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CHINA DAILY

Preparing for the long road trip

HOMEBOYS IN THE PHILIPPINES are synonymous with traveling. Once a year, during the summer season, they begin to splurge, a subconscious stretch session to flip to us. With the start of the year as their most intense, we as a people cope with the unrelenting assistance of the long-suffering by stopping to please-cool or and-less-suffering.

So a large cross section of Filipinos this means hours and hours on the road, in buses, jeepneys and the family car. There is no need to remind readers of the logistical hair curls of those trips can become out. Just look at the cars loaded to the limit plying the highways; you'd probably see a kitchen sink strapped onto the roof of a refrain if it were removable possible. It gets that bad, ladies and gentlemen.

People arguing

It is said which one runs (until

MY DRIFT

Andre Hubred

on, parked at the side of the road. Usually this is accompanied by people arguing over some mechanical malady. It's generally a female going off on the male about just how lousy their trip has started, on how she'll never make the morning call at the beach for the perfect tan.

Poor guy. I would not want to

be in his shoes. Things get worse when there are kids in the stalled car. Those of us who've heard the "Are we there yet?" or "I have to pee!" lines repeated incessantly can commiserate. Sometimes jumping into the lane of an oncoming bus or truck seems like the only way out of the badgering and tugging one gets from people who just expect cars to run, without fail, for all eternity.

Lifesaver remedy

There is a silver bullet, an ultimate remedy for such situations—vigilance. I'm not even talking of remembering the regular preventive maintenance that you

should already be performing with religious fervor. Whatever the circumstances, whatever excuse one can come up with, there is a need to check the condition of your car before subjecting it to hundreds of kilometers of sun and sweat, under the punishment of a tropical sun. The stops are simple.

If you've never popped the hood of your vehicle, now would be the time to do so. Automobiles do not operate on fuel alone. If this is something you have not already realized, then you need serious help. Check the oil of your engine. Figure out if you've got enough brake fluid in the master. Prove the existence of fluids in your radiator.

Real manual

How does one do this? Why doesn't this morning hunk spell out these procedures in detail for the benefit of the driving public? That would be too much spoon-feeding. Just read the manual please and if your vehicle does not come with one, ask yourself why that's the case.

Start dealing with the engine, walk around your vehicle. If your tire looks a little deflated it probably is. If your tire looks deflated, it probably is. If your tires look a little too bald, they probably are. All I am trying to say is this: if something looks out of the ordinary, leave it alone. Again the manual of your vehicle should discuss the pressure there are loaded and unloaded pressure settings. Go open the all important manual of your vehicle and bask in the enlightenment.

Final check

The final simple check happens when one gets behind the wheel. Assess your car with the assumption that the Greater Sun been good enough to equip you with. If the cabin begins to reek of something burning or of petroleum products, you know you have an issue. Sounds of the usual, like creaking and rumbling, are also worrisome. Try to feel the car as it drives about, if something seems wrong, again, it probably is.

Being a hypochondriac about your car is not a bad thing. Real problems will get fixed. Phantom troubles will get sorted. In the end, you will be able to understand your vehicle more and get a feel for what is going wrong, something that becomes second nature after a while. Hopefully this happens before you have to pull over and deal with car problems in the middle of nowhere and under all sorts of pressure.

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The 2bU! Fan Base *Part 1*

This week, 2bU! celebrates the fun fan life with fan confessions, stalkmuch moments, mouldie brushes with celebrities and a ton of photos. And we're only getting started. Next week, expect another big serving, straight from the 2bU! Fan Base. If you have your own stories to share, e-mail it to 2bu@inquirer.com.ph. And remember: no idol is too 'balaw'!

LEA SALONGA, all starry-dunks on my shaking hands

Kissed by a miss called Lea

By Gibbs Cadiz

LEA SALONGA, OF COURSE, whom I have always admired. At the concert that opened Hong Kong Disneyland last year, she was the undisputed star, the only singer in the guest list to have performed in two of Disney's best-loved movies: "Mulan" and "Aladdin."

Dining in a Shanghai resort dress hours the point that bagging enthusiastic nights except Lea's bottle of mineral lobby district. Even "Miss Saigon." Everywhere you went, you heard the strains of "Reflection" and "A Whole New World" in their unmistakable crystalline voice. Multiply that by the number of Disney theme parks all over the world, the millions of visitors they attract every year, and the fact that these places are designed to outlive all of us, and there's now a true-blue generation of the world's children will love. And she's Pinoy.

But that's not my story. Three, Dreiberg's Jan joined Coco Lee, Jackie Cheung and a gaggle of other Asian celebrities on the red carpet for a lavish reception at the Hollywood Hotel. I found myself jostling for space along the silver ropes with hundreds of other journalists from all over the world. Many of them among cameras with fearsome-looking zoom lenses. I must have looked like a schmuck with my tiny silver-tinted Canon PowerShot A75.

My location wasn't exactly super, either, but I was perspiring like crazy, my feet hurt and damn if I lost my space to another interloper.

The stars came one by one. Sebastian, cheeky, veganism to panic and smile abundant in Chinese. Then the announcement came: Miss Lea Salonga! —with another Asian-size volume name I forget now.

Lea, in a chic black getup, went up the dais and said a few words about how proud she was to be a part of history and of the fact that many of her fellow Filipino artists were performing in the Hong Kong park. Then Daryl got her arm and led her toward the hotel doors.

I seized my chance. "Lea, Philippine Daily Inquirer!" I shouted. She whirled around, smiled, extended a hand to me and asked, almost involuntarily, "Philippine Daily Inquirer?" The only Filipino media person was only me; my colleagues were everywhere in the crowd. The foreign reporters squirming me from everywhere barely gave her a glance.

I stammered my introductions, told her it was an honor to meet her, and that I covered theater for the paper. What she said next floored me.

I commenced my introductions, told her it was an honor to meet her, and that I covered theater for the paper. What she said next floored me:

"You're Gibbs! Marsha told me about you!"—apparently referring to Marsha Lauterbach-Yeiko, her friend and an equally talented theater activist in Honolulu.

I could only manage a mittened reply. "I hope what she said was good." (Arrgh.) Lea laughed and said Marsha read my reviews.

Other celebrities were screaming by. I asked Lea for a shot, and she said, "Sure." She stepped back and smiled her dazzling smile. Click. It was only later on than I found out I had taken both photos, courtesy of my shaking hands.

As a final gesture of thanks, I extended my hand for a handshake. Lea took it, leaned over and kissed me on the cheek.

That night was the only time I hated taking a bath.

This article first appeared in the author's blog, www.gibbscadiz.com. E-mail him at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

2BU! TO THE RESCUE

Legally glam

By Pam Pastor

THE CONFESSION SUDdenly came on what would have otherwise been a random YM conversation. Rosa Villanueva spilled her secret—she's a big fan of Rha Ocampo's chief makeup artist Xeng Zulueta.

"I hear Xeng. I was so excited once when she was featured in a magazine and I discovered that she also has this pair of shoes that I have in my shoe cabinet... I think she's pretty and stylish and a real person. How can someone so pretty be so nice and talented and stylish?"

Just days later, we ran into Xeng and told her about Rosa. Xeng said, "Whatta her birthday? I'll give her a surprise makeover!"

This we reported to Rosa. Soon, the mom of a high school girl contacted her on line to tell her that her daughter's a big fan. Xeng surprised the girl by showing up at their house. After hanging out with the girl and her friends, she left the house, but not without making a promise to do her makeup for her prom on the 13th Saturday.

ROSA Villanueva and her favorite makeup artist Xeng Zulueta

MAKEUP MAGIC. Xeng gives Rosa a birthday makeover

Back to Rosa

After minimal research, we found out that Rosa's birthday was just a week away. Her birthday wasn't the only reason she deserved a makeover. She was nervous about the results of the last exams and deserved some pampering.

With help from her friends, we were able to lure her to Rustan's Makati last Friday afternoon. Never mind that someone let the surprise slip. When Xeng greeted Rosa hello as if she were an old friend, Rosa broke into a huge smile.

As Xeng started to work on Rosa's makeup at Rha Ocampo's counter, we left them alone so they could bond.

After her makeover was done and tons of photos were taken, we hung around, munching Rosa chi-chat with Xeng.

The next day, Rosa wrote in her blog: "Ate Xeng is the best! Thank you so much for the makeover! Thank you for the pictures! Thank you for the gift! Thank you for the time! Thank you for everything! Hope to see you soon!"

Every person who has a fan should take his or her cue from Xeng Zulueta of the highlights of my day: a makeover with Rha Ocampo's Xeng Zulueta. And you know what's really super about it? It was Xeng's idea to do the makeover. I've heard rave reviews about her work, but I've never met her. And she made me feel especially. And she gave me a present. So when if my big party never pushed through and so what if I can't really celebrate (and I find out if I passed the bar or not)? Today I met Xeng, got a present from Xeng and had my makeup done by Xeng. I wouldn't have asked for a better present.

Just weeks later, Rosa received another beautiful present—she passed the bar. Xeng Zulueta's has a new client.

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This Summer, study at:

VERNON TAPALLA'S

The photo was taken four years ago when I shot Mandy Moore for the cover of Seventeen magazine. I did my first Hollywood celebrity photo shoot with Mandy and I was really excited that its camera shots). The next time I shot her for Cosmopolitan magazine, I was pretty much comfortable with her already, so I was able to make her sign our photo together.—**Pinky Poweda**

This is my photo with Boy Abunda. I'm such a fan of his intelligence and with that my friendship wouldn't be complete without seeing him in "Tonight With Boy Abunda." It's a pleasure to be a fulfilling weekend! Hello, you're—Anya Sunshine Lacson

A photo of me with Malaysian model, actress and TV host Belinda Ooi. This was taken in Cotabato last December when she visited the Philippines. We met in Kuala Lumpur in 1999, when I was doing a feature on Parkland Suites and she was just 19 years old then. Now, she's all grown up and has become a huge celebrity in Malaysia! Need I say more? I'm a big fan of hers!—**Vicky Salazar**

I became a fan of the "Super Juggs" kids after meeting them. They're the cutest, sweetest little boys and I have a special love with the adorable Mighty Ham ball! —**MARIA MIRANDA, 21**

Not once do I feel insulted when even people tell me I look like Mr. Bean. I'll use it to my advantage many times to break the ice when talking to people, as a way to introduce myself as a light and funny guy. Because of this, I never take problems deciding what to wear on fan! lessons, and I'm also a bit proud. about! positive!—**Jayvee Fernandez**

Doesn't it so much because they are talented and very good-looking... they groups! They are my inspiration and I don't allow any day to pass without watching their DVDs. Yes, I'm lying, 24-hours! right time. I can memorize their songs—even the Mandarin versions. (ha ha, girl? I bet you!—**Mich Marbel S. Gamos**

Fan-o-rama!

(Part 1)

2bU! asked readers to dig up their favorite fan moments and allow us to show them to the whole country

By Pam Pastor

ADMIT IT. AT ONE POINT OR another, you've spotted a celebrity you really, really admire and you summoned all the courage you can to ask him or her to pose for a photo with you.

We all have fan photos—mine we love to flaunt on Friendster and others we would rather keep tucked away in our drawers or buried in a shoe box, under a pile of old letters.

This week, 2bU! asked later to do another letter thing—perhaps letter than asking your idol out.Here if you can grab your phone's camera in her fan—to dig up their favorite fan moments and allow us to show them to the whole country. And because we enjoy being outdoorsand, too, we joined in on the fun.

This is only the first batch of photos, we still have a ton to share.

As this spread will show you, it works in two fan.

Share your favorite fan photos with us by e-mailing to 2bu@inquirer.com.ph

I met Tom Cruise during the "War of the Worlds" premiere at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood. It was a true experience because I got to see some of the actors and actresses walk the red carpet. I also saw Ryan Seacrest at KIIS studio where Dan Cayabyab, one of the morning shows in LA. Behind me in the make-up room as we grabbed the opportunity. We were really nice to me for the camera, considering it was early in the morning, around 7:30 a.m.—**Rochelle Mangila**

We took a picture with some friends ourselves, and we absolutely had to have a photo taken with Ang of Image. I was overwhelmed we got all day to ask her for a photo op...but asked the book. So you can see Jaclyn also struck her do (adorable)—**Dee Ireland**

Everyone suddenly became a basketball fanatic when the Universityof Santo Tomas towering figure snatched last year's UAAP championship from the Ateneo Blue Eagles.

Well, at least many Thomasians became 2bU! fan when we threw samples for two and we experienced their hand during the photo shoot how they were chosen and rendered by adoring fans. My friends and I watched all three championship games in Araneta Center and cheered till we were hoarse. And after a grueling month that ended up as front-page material in most broadsheets, what else was there to say but "Go Tiger!"—**Jason C. Perez**

My favorite "Oh, Tokyo!" host is Ellen Muthoso. I always had a blast watching her crazy antics from your late-night time slot. And there's porks and interview sessions Japanese people. Who can forget her episode where she tried to eat the huge bat-cockroach? Last year, I won at a gala dinner thrown by the Philippines Embassy in Tokyo and I spotted her. I was torn between my urge to be poised in my Filipiniana outfit and heels and giving in to the urge to be a gaudy groupie. The gaudy urge won. I awkwardly ran to Ellen, started pumping her hand and said, "I am such a huge fan!" Ellen looked at me and started blinking rapidly. I was worried I had scared her. But she smiled and pounced for photos with us. The next day I saw her again at another event but she kept worm-hug her anymore. I didn't want her to be scared of her crazy stalker fan. —**Pam Pastor**

Miss Saigon is one huge, I practically knew Lea and Jon by rote on memory lane! Anticipating our arrival, I learned that Philippine Stage Producer's Ruel Bayani, fortunately I was promoted as one of the band's or group vocal sessions. So cut the long fashion story short, I jumped to the chance when I saw my name on the roster of the band's talents! Ah hum, "Regina Regajo from the Morato Fashionista Inc. on me." Then photo-ops ensued in a common room having a happy-go-lucky. I could see Jessie Mae and Dodjie Boy were earning cameos character silhouettes, at that time he was arranging me. I was contacting the Rockers like with the high-school kid who had seen his event. I used to say, "Mom! look! Ken, remember so he," but I guess the adult smile said it best. —**Irene C. Perez**

Among all the pictures I have with artists and celebs, I've found only one photo so far that really reminds me of a night of pandemonium. I was super nuts over Bob Guiller and Ben Jaden (entire rooms out) told a friend at backstage homage acts to the Philippines about him, and voila! The Kings performed that, before the concert, my friend told me she had a surprise for me. Now in the middle of his set, Ben asked, "Is there an Angela here tonight?" He couldn't even pronounce my last name. I was dumbstruck, as my friend wildly waved my arm for me. So apart for that one stand-up card and other crowd that I was responsible for as being host, she brought me backstage to meet Ben. I was contacting the Rockers like with the high-school kid who had seen his event. I used to say, "Mom! look! Ken, remember so he," but I guess the adult smile said it best. —**Irene C. Perez**

In 2000, I stumbled upon the blog of "America's Next Top Model" contestant, Elyse Sewell. I loved how she wrote, and model hoped to be a following in Hong Kong before she started, and that year some of her blog entries were published "Beauty and the Biz: The International Adventures of America's Next Top Model." I happened to be her blog and of her blog entries published "Beauty and the Biz: The International Adventures of America's Next Top Model." I happened to be her blog and of her blog entries published the queue outside fly-inside bookstore. There was a short Q&A before Elyse read an excerpt from the book. Everyone was given enough time to exchange a few words and have autographed with Elyse. She was very sweet and reminded me of a pixie. Well to her my face looked like a pincushi! —**Rosemarye Dampuan**

When on my way home from a trip to Thailand and spotted actor/singer/heartbreaker Jericho Rosales on the airport. I don't usually get star-struck, but to convince I was the blue eyes (which I fell in love with in "My Ex-cuded Life"). I randomly paranoid/acting and kept saying, "Oh my God, oh my God," and I was in a bit worse. My cabin consultant ran to our other row, so I took the chance and called out his name. He looked a little surprised that someone recognized him, but thought he was in a movie, he answered with my request for a snap. It felt completely surreal! I wasn't a fanatic at present, but it was him until I saw an online article about him where he wore this jacket. Still, I'm apparently about your success of "Mouseder" (with Angelica Jolie and Colin Farrell) in Thailand and was on his way home when I ambushed him. —**Mitzi Tee**

My "romance" with them hang (Ron began when he starred as Electra "Electra by Heaven" and thinking back to "Bad Love Song." The project was on great. And Sean Ryan—a model-cum-presenter new to my Korean stuff like opinions, tickets and brain-kiki. Those ejaculated his acting—really give me chicken-filling memories? I get very excited when I learned of his trip to Manila. I rushed to The Fave Shop to inquire about it. Armed with my notes and photographers, twenty minutes for the KSR Nice Tour. Where my memories was called for the Dealer. Hands with KSR traffic, I could not describe how I felt. I was literally shaking! Good thing my old son met with my anxiety! If he ever comes back to the Philippines, I'll make sure I'll mention again our first encounter when he flew. I won't ever!—**Melody Taroma**

I was a big one. Talaga lang maging up. I had all her records, scanned album covers and became "friends" with her! I remember that she and her brother sang at my third birthday party, and would visit their house a lot. Everyone was a fan of Lucil. Sad how we had some of my stamina to have autographs no, hehe.—**Chinggay Labrador**

This was taken last year during my vacation. I'm signing to get it's remodeling "ASAP Live." At times I'm a huge fan of Pinki Perucal and Sam Milby para makapagpa-picture.—**Diane Gamalong**

When I was in fifth grade and my cousin Glenyse was in sixth grade, we were huge fans of Miss Kids on the Block (MKOTB). I honestly believed I was going to marry Jordan Knight. Our parents were editors were very tolerant of our MKOTB obsession, buying our magazines and all kinds of merchandise, from watches and T-shirts to bed sheets and tsinelas. My brothers (I were two) and brothers/babysitter at least ended up liking Boyz II Men because it was popular with the high school girls in school. They would close me during recess so they could look at my name. (Pretty even for a grade-school kid).

Here's a picture of us with our friend Lala, before going to the MKOTB concert in Manila. I cannot believe our moms let us make the house dresses! In those days we were really into clothes. And the other person there MKOTB admirer/groupie/friend we had for our concert—Mary Ann Nicolas. And the teenage girls at the concert loved the shorts, too. They kept stopping us to ask where we bought them.—**Pam Pastor**

"Celebrity Central: Talented Lagio Time" in Singapore, July 2008. I smile every time I see this picture since this was my favorite part of the show: giant balls bouncing on anywhere where the band performed "Tattoo." I also randomly a couple of songs later since I never thought I would see them perform live ever. Thank God for budget airlines, generous siblings and loyal friends.—**Tommy David**

Mesmerized by Manilyn Reyes

THE author and her grade school idol, Manilyn Reyes

By Cristina F. Agatep

WHEN YOU'RE IN THIRD GRADE, you idolize almost everything you see on TV. I grew up watching "Small Love (Sweet Love)" starring Manilyn Reyes. Manilyn was my ultimate idol. She was cute, she's talented, funny, and she could belt out a chorus of a song.

Even now, "Inuyang 'sin Inuyang Lang" is in my iPod playlist.

My classmates in elementary school claimed she was a neighbor of Manilyn. I got so giddy with excitement that I asked for an autograph. My classmates agreed and handed me the stationery with the supposed Manilyn Reyes signature the next day.

For some unexplainable reason I had doubts over that autograph. Anyway, I moved on and grew up and forgot all about my Manilyn adoration.

I now work for a live morning show, so it is not really a surprise that we get to rub elbows with the famous. I've pretty much grown jaded with celebrities, like imagine my excitement when I learned that we had to cover Manilyn Reyes for a morning show segment. Among her fan-like first times in the flesh, suddenly I was a third grader again.

When I saw her inside Ole room, I was not ready to star struck. I was tongue-tied, and my hands were shaking. I could only utter, "Ms'am, have a seat, and kindly please stand by; we'd go on air in a while."

SECOND time's the charm. The author poses for another photo with her favorite star.

The feeling was like seeing your first love after nine years. Simply put, I was just happy and scared of words.

After a couple of minutes of wanting, I finally gathered myself together and made small talk with my idol. I realized she was as human as everybody else. She told me about how she filled to go fishing, about being a mother, about lots of things. I then asked her about that long-ago autograph and the classmate who was supposed to be her neighbor.

She was very polite in letting me know that she had no knowledge of my classmates. I knew it... I laughingly told her. She laughed with me. Okay, there I was all star-struck again, and we're still laughing with me!

I then asked her for autograph and had a photo taken with her, and she warmly obliged. The photo-taking was repeated a year later when she guested on our show again. Now, whenever I'd see her in the mall, I remind her that... more than being that deflated third grader who was falsely given her autograph, I really am a fan who is now fulfilled at having in her possession the real autograph of her idol.

Email the author at tong_agatep@yahoo.com

Up close and personal with The Legend

By Mark Bonifacio
Correspondent

LUKE MEJARES, FORMER SOCIALIST of the band South Border and tagged as the country's King of R&B since he went solo, never thought that one day he would have a chance to meet one of his idols in the flesh. So when he was informed that he would be sent to Singapore to interview Grammy award-winner John Legend for a variety show, Luke couldn't contain his excitement.

"I have been crazy about John Legend and have been a fan since the time I first heard his first single. In fact, I sing most of his songs during my gigs," Luke said.

The author was with Luke during a recent junket in Singapore to promote his sophomore album "Once Again," which also included Philippine Daily Inquirer Entertainment Editor Dennis Velarde, Philippine Star's Meinrad Stumark, MYX head writer Xavier Bautista and MYX promo winner Carmelo Bolino.

MYX head writer Enelito Bautista, MYX promo winner Carmelo Bolino, Luke Mejares and the author

Everyone was excited as Legend performed cuts from his first album "Get Lifted" at a packed concert at The Esplanade. This time, Luke was among the spectators, singing along to tunes like "Used To Love You," "Ordinary People," "Save Room," and taking pictures of John Legend. (Though photos taking was first disallowed, rules were broken as all present whipped out their cell cameras to shoot John Legend appeared.) The singer thanked the audience with his soulful tune that was just Stevie Wonder and Jaci Al Green.

LUKE Mejares awakening good Legend

The next day was the rollcall of press interviews at The Oriental, where Legend was also billeted. Luke could still not remove the hangover from the concert. His shirt was subsidized late in the afternoon but he got up early to prepare his questions.

When his turn finally came, people from the revised label mandated him as a famous R&B performer in the Philippines.

"Really? That's great!" Legend told Luke.

After exchanging pleasantries, Luke asked questions about his music, working with Kanye West, his grandmother, and what language would he use if he found himself abducted by aliens.

"You know the feeling when your idol is already out there in front of you ... speaking with you—I was so tense the whole time. I almost ran out of questions, but there was still a lot of time left and I didn't want to waste it. I thought to myself 'listen, this is your only chance.' I recall being I knew a lot about him, so I was able to ask more questions despite those moments when I thought I would chicken up," Luke said.

But after his interview, Luke erased something every fan should do when meeting their idols.

"I was so nervous, I forgot to ask him to have his picture taken with me!"

Fortunately, record label reps accommodated his request, but he had to wait for the other interviewers to finish.

"I didn't mind waiting because I felt it would not be complete without having a photo with my idol," Luke said.

So when it was his turn again, he didn't let the moment pass, and this author took the photos of both. Both kings really ran digital camera and cellular phone.

"My day was suddenly complete," Luke said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity not only to see your idol in the flesh but also to speak with him. I'll never forget this for the rest of my life."

Local R&B King Luke Mejares finds himself face to face with his idol, John Legend

Dare to ask.
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What 2bU! readers think of Star World's 'American Idol' finalists

IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, Star World's "American Idol" was filled with the presence of the mighty—Simbisai crooner Tony Bennett an classics nerd and superstar Jennifer Lopez on Latin night. But mixed with top musical counseling from these two, edgy Gina Glocksen and jiggy Jessica Haley Starnes failed to make a stronger case with the judges and the American public. Local AI fans seem to agree, as they put the torch in the hands of consistent performers Blake Lewis, Melissa Meinhardt, and Lakisha Jones.

But there remains to the final World. 2bU! It the Judge pervies, stars, lotsabets, KIKO Mio, and Bian all sent special pressions prizes from Star World and "American Idol". Congratulations, guys! To claim your prize, please call Cindy Cardoso at 8937472 72.

Plus, too, can win exciting prizes from the world's biggest singing competitions! Catch "American Idol" tonight at 8 p.m. live via satellite (or 9 p.m. primetime and 11:30 p.m.) on Star World, give us your name and contact details, comment on the finalists in five sentences or less and e-mail to starworld.phil@gmail.com.

Here are the promo winners from the past few weeks:

From diary_lex: "The boys can't drone the girls, and Chikka Lovah getting the most acceptable performance of the night. Simbisai's suggestions and wording were surprisingly evident romantic Lion passion. Chito Richard-son's voice was weak. Among the girls, Jenifer Sparks gave the best performance. Melinda's mannerisms were still, Lakisha Jones had to hand to dance, and Haley seemed too quick with her song choice."

From tsbobcrt: "The two Idol divas opened Latin night in style—Melinda Doolittle's glaring onstage with "Feeling" and Lakisha Jones dancing to the beat of "Conga." It seems Haley Starnes's mood not worry about singing, she could just bite her legs and the rhythm of the dance would come to her. Jason Castro's voice was weak. Among the girls, Jenifer Sparks gave the best performance. Melinda's mannerisms were still, Lakisha Jones had to hand to dance, and Haley seemed too quick with her song choice."

Jason Castro—Brent Javier
Sebastien Bryner—Aliana Alvarez
Julia Roberts and Cameron Diaz —Arleen Malabayo

Rory Park because Danth Bland is the coolest kid on effism of all time! —Mary Abejon

Johnny Depp and Jessica Witherspoon. Weirdo, looks and talent. —Ana Lilian

I'm a fan of U2 and Bono. They know how to keep making music that rocks, and Bono deserves to open his concerts for a much bigger, good way before everyone else started doing it. —Pia Guanzon

I am a fan of Angelina Jolie, a perfect celebrity model. What else could you ask for? She exudes power, confidence and purity. —Aubrey Miles

I will always look up to Jon Seivaga, her voice, her professionalism, she's the role model performer who has achieved true fame as a real person. —JM Rodriguez

I am a big fan of Mike Myers for playing Austin Powers. I'd love to play an interactive of class of mystery with lots of magic. —Lailo Jackson

No doubt, they have to be Oprah and Ellen DeGeneres. For me, they epitomize women empowerment with a sense of calm and humor. The makings of a strong yet kindred spirit. —Bianca Balerio

I admire Britney Witherspoon because she is an intelligent, kindly woman who doesn't seem to play the Hollywood game. She makes sense. —Lyn Ching

Conan O'Brien! He stays sharp on and self-deprecating humor always gets the morning line overall make me as giddy as a schoolgirl! —Sam Oh

Lea Salonga! I'm a big fan! She was at "Pinoy Dream Academy" one night and I had to drive drive me back to the studio as I could have my iPod signed. I felt like such a fool! Couldn't stop shaking and I couldn't even talk properly! Oh, and I found her real Multiply site. I actually read the site on a regular basis. I'd really love if she were in the Philippines. Haha! —Nikki Gil

Peter Jennings—he runs from the cooks and she may be dethroned but news was just excellent, no ifs and buts about it. He was never a talking head, and most of all he produced his own shows. —Arnold Clavio

Gary Valenciano...aside from being a top notch performer, he's just so kind, a family oriented God-fearing guy. —Owee Bradillano

I'm a huge fan of Beyoncé Knowles because of her eagerness to grow not only as a musician but also as an actress at a very young age. I admire her guts to take on risks and conquer the fronts and acting scenes. Talk about girl power! —Camille Prats

Regine Velasquez, Richard Gutierrez and Claudine Barretto! —Katrina Halili

I idolize my mother-in-law Carmen Rhodes. She's a golden girl per the books like she's only in her late 20s. Very disciplined when it comes to taking care of her body and health. Very sexy, very healthy living and cool. —Sheelyn Bruno

Jessa Chua-Lua he is a supreme being pero sakaba tayo magpakatotoo, in personal favorites kasi dun's very romantic. Ikaw ahan nya...acting, singing, dancing, napaganyan pa! —Jessica Soho-Pangan

Darwin, Marcel Santos because kasi galing talaga sya sa el regalo romantic. —Tuesbeauty

I'm a fan of Karina Sanchez, Idol Tarugo and Winnie Monsod: strong and self-made women, women of great passion and dedication, women who are not afraid to express themselves and go for their dreams. Women who know their purpose in life and brave withstood to tough challenges. —Aria Agnacelli

Madonna! Because she is able to reinvent herself for every generation, and not only succeed but be on top all the time! —Miss Bicolubbs Andrea del Rosario

Justin Timberlake! He's multitalented—he can sing and dance! —Jules Peaza

I idolize Oprah Winfrey. She is smart, sassy and funny! I love how she transformed, down-to-earth and generous she is. She's the richest, most successful African-American woman in the world! Who wouldn't want to be like her? —Bergine Valentino

I idolize Tess Mobets, the guy who started Gawad Kalinga. He is proud to be a Filipino and does his part to help fix problems. Inspires to do, serving and hardworking kababayan. —Saul Estrada-Rivera

Joey de Leon! Because he's downright funny down-to-earth, a real person. Tawang-tawa ako sya sabay-sabay sa mga noontime shows. Isa sya sa mga nagpasok ng acting sa kanyang mga show and comedian. Sa one sec lang, bibi doon! Hindi lolokol! —Alicia Mayer

I'm a huge and avid fan of Julia Roberts not only because of her good looks but also because of the sincere interest she has in her craft. Her passion for acting...She makes us cry, and we end up believing that when we see someone is happening in real life. —Mary Taylor

My idol is Bevin Irwin, aka the Crocodile Hunter, because of his love for nature and the wildlife conservation, the impact he had setting caring the world about wildlife conservation, and...down all, for his having been a loving father. —Brad Barrett

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2BU! CELEB SURVEY

Stars as fans

By Nikki-Marie M. Saldua and Cristina P. Aguilog
2bU! Correspondents

WHILE MANY OF US LOOK UP TO local stars for their looks and talent, it's no big surprise that they themselves have their own idols. Even homebs celebrities don't mind acknowledging just how much other stars shine!

AMD Turion 64 X2 MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

HP recommends Windows Vista™ Home Premium

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HP Entertainment Notebook: Innovation with a Twist

Manila, Philippines—It's the first PC wonder!...with a sleek and sophisticated twist in its innovative PC line with the launch of the new HP Pavilion tx1000 Entertainment PC. This is HP's first-ever consumer notebook to feature a dynamic, 'tear and touch' screen display and other innovative features to deliver the best Microsoft Windows® Vista™ experience.

Designed by HP's award-winning notebook design team, the HP Pavilion tx1000 Entertainment Notebook PC is built to be entertainment driven, versatile, and fashionable. It delivers a dynamic and personal mobile computing experience for trendy students seeking a powerful PC with entertainment capabilities to keep up with their day to day activities. At the same time, it suits active professionals who're on-the-go a lot, a versatile notebook to balance both personal and work projects.

Versatile in Function

The unique 12.1" inch wide 'tear and touch' screen of the HP Pavilion tx1000 Entertainment Notebook PC can be rotated 180 degrees the viewing screen or in case of business or classroom presentations. Additionally, it can be converted to a flat slate for scribbling notes quickly in classrooms or enjoying movies in tight travel spaces such as airplanes. The configurable Integrated Webcam and dual, smart directional microphones make video conferencing simple and enjoyable, so that it is easier to connect with distant friends and family, or conduct online meetings with business associates or virtual classmates.

Multitasking is made easy, thanks to AMD Turion™ 64 x 2 mobile technology which powers the HP Pavilion tx1000 Entertainment Notebook PC to run programs simultaneously without slowing the PC. Users can switch seamlessly between work and play or run DVDs and music while working on detailed documents or spreadsheets. AMD Turion™ 64 x 2 mobile technology also increases battery life for the Pavilion tx1000 notebook PC for longer on-the-go use.

Users need not worry about forgetting their passwords with an integrated fingerprint reader that allows users to log on to the notebook PC with a simple swipe of the finger. Even with multiple users of the notebook PC, individual fingerprints can be assigned to ease access and private files.

Entertainment Driven

Built for easy entertainment, the HP Pavilion tx1000 Entertainment Notebook PC features new and improved HP QuickPlay 3.0, an HP innovation that allows users to instantly access photo and video files at the push of a button without booting up their notebooks. Moreover, game graphics and photographs appear realistic and visually stunning through its high-definition display with HP BrightView technology that enhances the visual quality for a richer multimedia entertainment experience. A color camera control allows users to easily control and manipulate multimedia features and adjust volume levels.

One of the first PCs to be optimized for Microsoft Windows® Vista™ Home Premium edition, the HP Pavilion tx1000 Entertainment Notebook PC has a range of new features for organizing content to allow users to find photographs and other entertainment files quickly and easily.

Fashionable to Finish

Following the success of its HP Inspiron design, the HP Pavilion tx1000 Entertainment Notebook PC sports the high gloss, robust and modern outer metal. HP Inspiron is a result of HP's extensive user consumer personal design preferences, as well as a number of local creative, stepping from traditional to modern. With imagination, the notebook's sleek curves and compact design will appeal to a gamut of images, such as a Japanese Zen garden, fireworks, waves or abstract visuals.

The HP Pavilion tx1000 Entertainment Notebook PC price starts from P89,995 and is available in authorized HP dealers.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto G. Polavilla

Haley: It's still me –whatever I wear

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

HALEY SCARNATO THROUGH has seen, "heard and said" Top Is Tyra Banks's Asian Scarnato would be wearing a clear robe on the show's runway main theme today.

The model this decision after judge Simon Cowell suggested on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) that Haley was showing off more skin than the others in order to stay in the competition.

Simon told Haley, "I think you have a very good name at the moment. Haley: wear the least amount of clothes as possible."

In a recent audiotape call Canada sensation Jay Sean **World** with the 24-year-old, Haley defended herself.

The comment had hurt her, she admitted, and she didn't speak with Simon after the results show.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

"No we wearing around just because I'm in there," Haley said. "That's just what I am, my trainer what I'm wearing."

A featherweight, she added, that she was getting more notes from the judges about what she wore than about how she sang.

Do you think you responding to Simon's comments was the right decision?

I'm on national TV I'm go to express him. He's Simon Cowell. I had to set on mute, ya.

What was it like to work with J Lo as mentor?

It was amazing. She was very warm and comforting, and she had a lot to tell us.

What challenge did you see expect in Haley?

Brunei interested in RP movies

DATO PADUKA SHARI CHRISTINE Dayrit left for Brunei on Friday to meet with a film distributor interested in purchasing Filipino movies for showing there.

Dayrit reported this to us e-mail to invite's Embassador. She also said they discuss, DAFA Films also permitted for project management, inherited her that the Brunei's intelligence—which buys films for in-flight entertainment on Canada and Emirates and several other carriers—had bought "The Promise."

During the recently concluded Hong Kong Filmart, Dayrit said, Rustic Mico awards told her that Regal Films had sold several films to Airways.

Meanwhile, the CEB chair said the International Film Festival Committee is currently finishing the Philippine attendance to the Cannes Filmfest from May 13 to 23.

Also, Dayrit said, the Film Development Council of the Philippines, which oversees CEB, will announce its nominating process

Slovenian beauty queen in PBB housemate swap

By Marinel R. Cruz

TWENTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD BRIGE Anthony Quebral is the first "Pinoy Big Brother" housemate who will be blindfolded, shaked and whirled off to a country in Central Europe as part of the controversial Housemate Swap, according to PBB director Laurenti Dyogi.

Quebral will replace Tina Seliavic, 22, of the Slovenian "Big Brother" house. Quebral is set to leave for Europe on April 19, Seliavic enters the PBB house on April 21, said Dyogi.

In a phone interview on Wednesday, Dyogi said he picked his new housey queen Gdansk from among the Slovenian housemates because her "personality would fit well" with the other Filipino housemates.

"She's nice and not too aggressive," he explained. "We don't want to get caught in controversies and draw the ire of the conservatives."

Before announcing his choice, Dyogi said he consulted ABC-CBN officials and the production team of the Slovenian show. "They all agreed with this," he added.

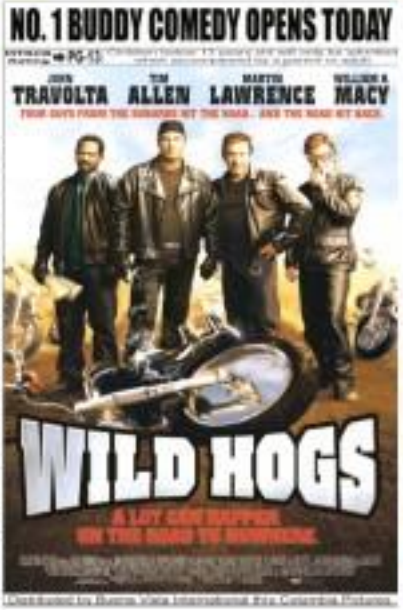
Quebral was chosen by vote of Reiah of the Slovenian show because of his good physique and "very Filipino" characteristics, the director said.

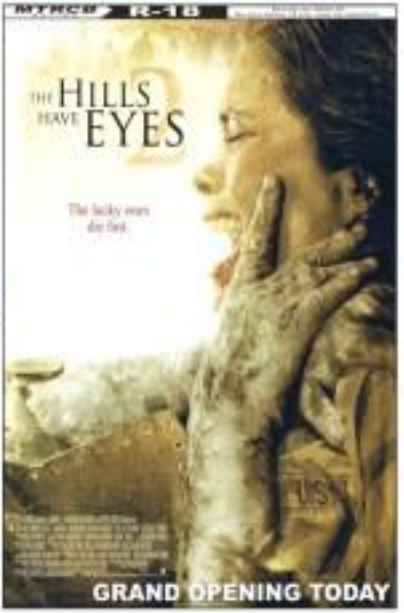
"They received a good-looking guy for their show," he explained. "Blue is dark and wavy-looking. They also think he could cope well with the same the criteria—he's made to do inside the house."

The Housemate Swap was created to promote cross-cultural interaction, said Dyogi. The first Big Brother's twin in May 2003 was homosexualities and Spain.

Meanwhile, housemate Melody Valdez, who took up mass communication as she for Eastern University, is allowed to leave the PBB house on Monday so as said her graduation ceremony. She was blindfolded and was told to wear inside a van until it was time for her to go up the stage.

"This is to make sure she calm with no one couldn't the house," said Dyogi.





DID YOU KNOW...

'Anatomy' for gays

LOS ANGELES—"Grey's Anatomy," the ABC hit show whose lead actor was criticized for using an anti-gay slur, was awarded for outstanding individual episode by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, which monitors depictions of gays and lesbians in the media.

The 18th annual GLAAD Media Awards aired "Grey's Anatomy" on Saturday for the episode "Where the Boys Are."

The show got unwanted attention last year when actor Isaiah Washington used a slur to talk about a cast-mate in an on-stage dustup. He later apologized and sought counseling.

"Little Miss Sunshine" was nominating film in the outstanding feature category. "Ugly Betty" lead for outstanding television comedy series. "Brothers & Sisters" took home the outstanding drama series award.

AP

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GALLERIA

1 THE REAPING – THX	6 300
2 PERFECT STRANGER	7 THE LAST MIMZY
3 WILD HOGS	8 Indie/Blow: DILIM
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2	9 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
5 THE SHOOTER	10 SUNSHINE

ERMITA

1 PERFECT STRANGER	
2 ANG CUTE ng INA MO	5 THE SHOOTER
3 WILD HOGS	6 THE REAPING
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES	7 THE LAST MIMZY

METRO EAST

1 SUNSHINE	6 THE SHOOTER
2 PERFECT STRANGER	6 THE LAST MIMZY
3 WILD HOGS	7 THE REAPING
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2	8 ANG CUTE ng INA MO

NOVALICHES

1 PERFECT STRANGER	4 SUNSHINE
2 WILD HOGS	5 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2	6 THE REAPING

PIONEER

1 PERFECT STRANGER	3 THE SHOOTER
2 WILD HOGS	4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2

STA. ROSA

1 TMNT	
2 WILD HOGS	
3 ANG CUTE ng INA MO	
4 PATHFINDER	
5 BLOOD and CHOCOLATE	

LIPA

1 300	
2 ANG CUTE ng INA MO	
3 SIDEJOB	
4 ROCKY BALBOA	
5 PREMONITION	

DASMARINAS

1 TMNT	
2 WILD HOGS	
3 ANG CUTE ng INA MO	
4 SUNSHINE	
5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2	

ANGELES

1 TMNT	
2 WILD HOGS	
3 TURISTAS	
4 ANG CUTE ng INA MO	

IMUS

1 MISS POTTER	
2 WILD HOGS	
3 ANG CUTE ng INA MO	
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2	
5 TMNT	
6 THE REAPING	

STARMILLS

1 MISS POTTER	
2 WILD HOGS	
3 TURISTAS	
4 ANG CUTE ng INA MO	
5 THE REAPING	
6 TMNT	

BACOLOD

1 THE NUMBER 23	
2 WILD HOGS	
3 RESERVE	
4 ANG CUTE ng INA MO	
5 PATHFINDER	
6 SIDEJOB	

ILOILO

1 TMNT	
2 WILD HOGS	
3 ANG CUTS ng INA MO	
4 PATHFINDER	
5 THE CHANTING	
6 Indie/Blow: COMPOUND	

Haley: It's still me . . .

From page D1

Has competition?

I didn't know it was going to be that tough to try and get a role cleared.

Is there anyone you were looking forward to working with in the upcoming movie?

I really wanted to work with Marion Mcbride.

We know you are engaged. Any chance you've chosen a wedding dress yet?

Yes, I did. I picked it right before I came out.

Do you have some free time before preparing for the tour?

I think I have some free time. I need to go plan my wedding.

When is it?

The wedding is November 11th, but we have to move it back because the "American Idol" tour is running late it, so we'll see how it goes.

Do you have specific song-series picks after the tour? Do you have things set up as to where you want to go after the wedding and the tour?

I would love to get a record deal. That's exactly what we all want. That would be a dream come true. I'm up for anything. I'll say anything. We'll see.

"American Idol" airs on Star World every Wednesday and Thursday, 8 p.m. live encore, 8 p.m. premiere, and 11:30 p.m. replay.

A look harder to pull . . .

From page D1

that her role in this series is the most difficult she's taken on so far, though she says she has also found it hard to do love scenes, like the ones she did as a rape victim in the indie movie "My Savior."

Hear recalls: "When my rapist, played by Arlo Avelino, kissed me on the neck, I broke down. I couldn't do it. So what we did was film the rape scene in such a way that viewers would think he was kissing me."

Often a choice, Hear says she'd rather not do kissing scenes, not even with Jericho Rosales, her boyfriend of two years.

"You saw me do it in 'Baryo'—that was a mistake," she says. "I want to marry just someone, the being careful not to make big parents angry again. I want them to see that I'm changed for the better."

Last year, Hear shared rumors that it was her parents' disapproval of her relationship with Jericho that drove her to move out of their house and live on her own.

Hear's reminded in this interview that she was at odds with her mom for over a year, partly because of the kissing scenes she did in "Baryo."

"Home na Malaki" premieres on April 23.

OPENING TODAY

D-Bris

Stars: Mario Maggallona, Rico Ocampo, Emilio Garcia, Archie Adamos

Directed by Topel Lee

ABS-CBN broadcaster explains that Lee's debut is "probably the most ambitious digital film to date ... with its unique visual treatment and suspenseful story flow." Produced for the cyber cinema One digital film fest, this "hand-edged horror action drama" sets "a dark home in the 2005 Cinemalaya 'digital' kahal" competition. It won also nominations for Gawad Urian awards—for cinematography, editing and sound. Online reviewer Ramon Tulfo features comments: "Worse is music (obviously OBE) the film scores on with stylish, fast-paced and action-packed visuals accompanied by punk and rock tracks." Exclusively in Sulit-on Robinsons Galleria.

Perfect Stranger

Stars: Halle Berry, Bruce Willis, Giovanni Ribisi, Nicki Aycox

Directed by James Foley

A squeaky investigative reporter (Berry) snoops around a rich corporate thrillist who is suspected of brutally murdering her childhood friend (Aycox). As expected, the journalist gets too close to her story and falls for the alleged killer. Kenneth Turan of Los Angeles Times points out that "few have thrillers don't just show up for the closing credits, they are knocking all the way. That's where this movie goes unpardonably wrong." Jim Ridard of Newsday agrees: "It proves as pointless as its counterfeit-suspense title, an ersatz thriller of said-hitting twists and cliffhanging forgeries." Joe Morgenstern of Wall Street Journal sees it up, then: "Like it full of choices, and Berry has made opposite bad ones with (this) perfectly off-putting thriller."

Wild Hogs

Stars: John Travolta, William H. Macy, Tim Allen, Martin Lawrence

Directed by Walt Becker

As a result of a real-life crisis, four boring suburbanites embark on a road trip to see America on their motorbikes, a la "Easy Rider." Dennis Harvey of Variety thinks that the "uninspired script and broad dispatch packs won't seem any plausible, but no slick, sub-package should be edgy with ... stuff audiences." Stephen Hunter of Washington Post says: "(It) never rises to the level of the preposterous, much less the comic. Gags are witless and surprisingly gross. The four actors, each accustomed to riding at the center never develop any rhythm, any chemistry, any anything." Ron Avellana of Hollywood Report Card differs: "It's well-paced with plenty of fun stuff and no slow moments."

Shooter

Stars: Mark Wahlberg, Danny Glover, Ned Beatty, Michael Peña

Directed by Antoine Fuqua

Based on the 1993 novel "Point of Impact" by Paul Gallo Stephen Hunter, this slugfest features a disgruntled hero. A Master marksman (Wahlberg) who becomes a non-state vig. hunter after being framed for a presidential assassination. David Denby of New Yorker says that "the mechanics of audience manipulation may be identical here, but they often work ... The movie is full of contrived reels of rifles and ammunition." Lewis Beale of Film Journal International describes it "as a mean, bloodless of familiar action tropes and post-9/11 paranoia ... (it) hits the ground running and never lets up once." Richard Corliss of Time magazine calls it "an honorable rather than exceptional addition to the canon of political thrillers."

The Hills Have Eyes 2

Stars: Jessica Stroup, Rushnell Stelk, Michael McMillan, Desirelle Gruver

Directed by Martin Weiss

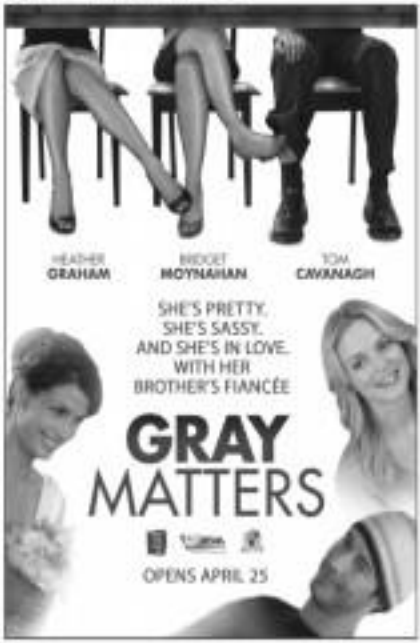
In this sequel to last year's hit remake, a Chamber of Grisly sequels is without end, only to be embodied by a tribe of irradiated, cannibalistic hillbilly-mutants. Michael Rechtshaffer of The Hollywood Reporter complains that this slasher is a "pale reminder ... poorly paced, literally excessive ... (providing) flat scares gritty, gory violence can be carefully leaving." Greg Dzwilewski of Entertainment Weekly discusses it as "horribly unpleasant ... Interesting quick shocks and always-looking guts ... a few shaky laughs, but not so many scares." Wesley Morris of Boston Globe says that the director "doesn't have on a lot of tone and editing tricks ... all the scares are leak into Wes Craven territory, Jonathan's script."

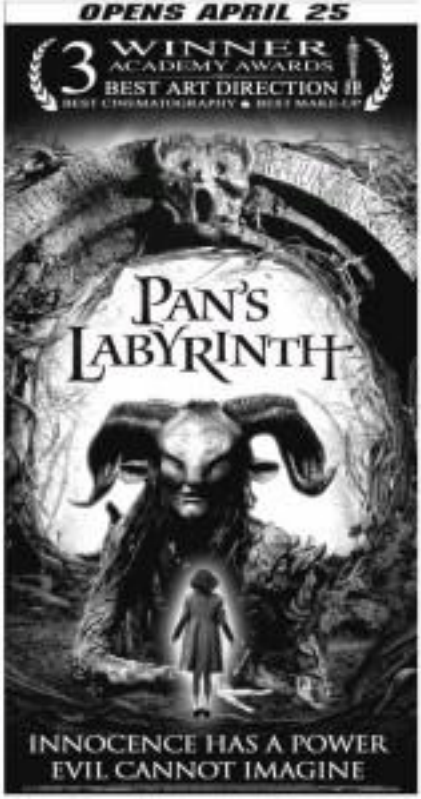
The Last Mimzy

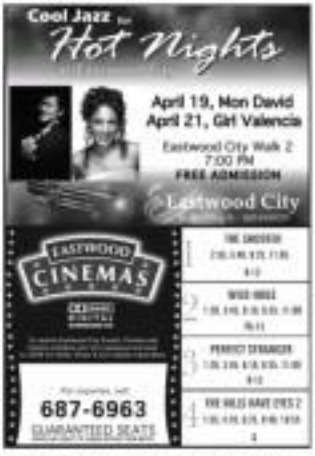
Stars: Chris O'Neil, Rhiannon Leigh Wryn, Andy Hallenbeck, Timothy Hutton

Directed by Robert Shaye

Based on a 1942 science-fiction novelette "Mimzy Were the Borogoves" by Lewis Padgett, this family flick follows two kids (O'Neil and Wryn) who discover a box of futuristic toys on the beach. The baby-sitter suddenly becomes a genius with the help of a toy rabbit named Mimzy. Ty Burr of Boston Globe finds it as a "moving, suspenseful science fable ... a middle-school version of 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind.'" Ronnie Scheib (Oregon of Variety Journal-Courier) argues that this "would pass (it a) pretty fantasy (that) relies in our lives 'IT' Michael Wilmington of Chicago Tribune disagrees: "(It) botches a great opportunity to update (the story) for the post-Spielberg era ... It doesn't see the material imaginatively."







GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN BY JOSS ARBEN

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY BY PAL JUNIO

MUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

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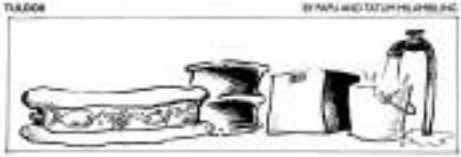

SIDEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	3	1				8	9	
8			3		1			5
4			5		9			3
2			6		7			9
	8	5	1			4	3	6
			8					2
			7					8
6			2		8			4
	7	8				5	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Type and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	7	8	3	2	5	4	9	1
3	9	2	8	4	1	7	5	6
5	1	4	6	7	9	3	2	8
2	6	3	7	5	4	8	1	9
1	5	7	9	8	2	6	3	4
4	8	9	1	3	6	2	7	5
9	2	1	4	6	7	5	8	3
7	3	6	5	9	8	1	4	2
8	4	5	2	1	3	9	6	7

CHEER FACTOR

Remember Menudo!

MIAMI – The Puerto Rican boy band Menudo, which gave singer Ricky Martin his start, is coming back as part of an "American Idol"-style reality show.

Dozens of Latino teenagers showed up for auditions Saturday at a Miami waterfront market, the Miami Herald reported. Judges included Johnny Wright, the music manager behind New Kids on the Block, 'NSync and the Backstreet Boys, and Backstreet Boy Howie Dorough.

Menudo was one of the most popular boy bands of the 1 Hilo.net/'80s, winning in more salsa every few years when the singers got old and their voices changed. AP

MMTA
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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

A look harder to pull off than a rape scene

By Marinell R. Cruz

FOR ALMOST 30 HOURS EVERY DAY since March, Heart Evangelista has been wearing a prosthetic face that takes three hours to put on.

That is for last new TV series on ABS-CBN, "Tinawag na Medina," where she portrays the character Clarissa, a woman with the face of a monkey.

"I've been breaking out on my forehead and cheeks because of the mask," says the chinky-eyed actress.

She also experiences difficulty in breathing with the thick mask is on, she adds. She takes by her to breathe through air several times about her nose.

When she eats or drinks, she has to remove the false upper lip, which covers almost the whole of her real mouth.

"Nothing," I learn in time. "The production staff now fixes my schedule in such a way that I work with the prosthetics on only every other day."

The series swears

A LOOK BY